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THE BATES STUDENT

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R.A. elects prez

by Sarah Gunn

With the ceremonial passing of a gavel, the Representative Assembly (R.A.) saw a changing of power as Liam Clarke '98 was voted in as the new R.A. president. The ceremony marked the end of an era as Richard Holley '97, who served two terms as the R.A.'s president, passed the mantle on to Clarke.

"The R.A. has fundamentally changed over the years: its voice has grown louder."

Liam Clarke '98, R.A. president

Clarke, who served last year as the R.A.'s Vice President, stressed in his acceptance speech the importance of a "shared community vision" and of positive action on the part of the student governing body.

"The R.A. has fundamentally changed over the years: its voice has grown louder," Clarke said. "We must work together to increase input, to question, to challenge, to represent, and to continue to work hard to better and strengthen our college commu-

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Second EPC forum held

Questions of staffing, student input, and educational philosophy raised; Pass-Fail Option, a student-generated idea, is commended by Committee

by Keri Fox

The second Open Forum on the proposed General Education Requirements was held Monday evening in Chase Lounge.

The room was packed and students offered interesting, pointed, and thought-provoking questions and comments; the Educational Policy Committee listened, thought, and responded in kind.

By the end of the forum, one fact was clear: neither students nor faculty members as a body hold one unified opinion regarding the EPC proposals.

"There is no concern that we've heard tonight that we haven't heard from the faculty," said Dean of the Faculty Martha

Crunkleton as evidence of the ongoing faculty debate about the new requirements.

The Dean stressed that few of the proposals will be passed without extensive faculty debate "with the exception of the cluster requirement, which will most likely be dropped."

Some students believe that "if you're looking for a better proposal, I don't think you're going to find it," a sentiment expressed by Rob Pelkey '98.

On the other hand, some students disagree.

"We appreciate the faculty [and the work the EPC has done], we don't think you're bad, you're

not ogres, we don't hate you. We just think you're wrong," stated John Connors '99.

n Requirements: what are their role in Bates life?

Although there was much discussion on specific parts of the proposal, discussion also addressed the purpose of the requirements and their underlying meaning.

The philosophy of the new proposals is not so different from the current one, the Committee maintained. In-

stead, the requirements are just adapted to meet the challenges of changing times. The primary difference is distributional, not contextual. "Virtually every course in the catalog meets a requirement. There are very few courses that don't meet a requirement," said Crunkleton. This is what accounts for the large numbers in areas like Biology and Psychology. The proposal's new way of distributing requirements is a way to end this glut.

"The idea of the General Education Requirements is to get the process started. The fact of the matter is that we can't force you to take General Education Requirements (GER) that will take you ten years to get out of here. What we can do is open avenues," said Pro-

"If you're looking for a better proposal, I don't think you're going to find it."

Rob Pelkey '98



Committee members answer student concerns. Amanda Hinnant photo.

fessor of German Denis Sweet.

"There's an assumption that faculty want to force students

You're [the faculty] not ogres. We don't hate you. We just think you're wrong,"

John Connors, '99

to do something they don't want to do ... [The goal is to] open up doors to people ... to say here are things you should know about," he

continued.

Miltiadis Vafiadis '97 argued that the new proposals would present logistical problems to students.

"I'm amazed that the faculty doesn't know the struggles students go through to get classes. There is a basic problem in how people choose classes."

While that may be one of the purposes of the new proposal, some students feel that the current proposals work well.

"I think we feel confident in the requirements [as is] ... I don't think I'd have been able to do what

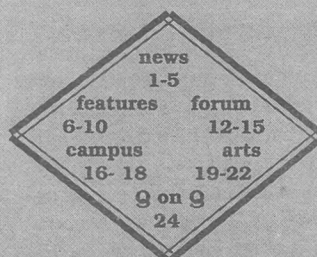
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The Inside Track

Bates celebrates International Weekend

Starting today, January 31, enter an international world ... with a multicultural fair in Chase Lounge, a series of international films and funnies, lectures on study abroad, dance workshops, a ReverbAfrica concert, and a multiculturally themed party. Watch several campus and state organizations join together to celebrate the global community.

Turn to Arts... on Page 2.



Students' experiences abroad...

Journey into a world of culture shock and mind expansion as students reflect on their study abroad experiences. Two students discuss their voyages to Thailand and Bali; and their transitions back to Bates. Also, Deborah Cantor discusses her experiences in Israel and reflects upon the political situation through the dual eyes of an American and a Jew.

Read about it in Features... starting on Page 6.

News

Friday, January 31, 1997

Weekend Weather

Friday: Super Bowl approacheth. Feel the fever. Go, Packers, Go! Feel the excitement. Win, Patriots, Win! Eat nachos, drink beer, be merry. Wait a minute ...
Saturday and Sunday: Same.

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In this week's NEWS section explore the new General Education requirements, as we report on Monday's informational forum and discuss faculty input into the process.

Also, a philosophy professor discusses cyberspace and the future of secondary education.

And learn about the future of the R.A. as the Representational body elects a new president.

Features,

Students discuss their study abroad experiences. Learn about students' journeys to Bali, China, and Israel.

And, as always... the horoscope.

Around Campus : Around campus will discuss weighty issues regarding stuff that happens around campus!

Then visit Forum : Letters to the editor about student apathy, an apology for a controversial sign, an editorial piece on the proposed pass/fail option for courses,

AND...

the R.A. gets blasted for its a-pathetic signs!

This week, **Arts** looks at Ellis Paul, a folk singer who will soon perform. We'll also examine Ved Meatha, the keynote speaker for the International Weekend. And a focus on the International Fair!

Sports: We don't need no steenkin sports!!

And (of course) that *Seventh Section*...

Faculty members of the EPC reflect on process

by Keri Fox

For the past few weeks the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) has been the source of many debates and many articles. Somehow, there still seems to be a great amount of confusion about what it actually says.

The Student asked the faculty members of the EPC to discuss the areas of the proposal which they

"Judging from the President's remarks at the Faculty Meeting last night, even he doesn't know how things are going to turn out as far as implementation ... is concerned."

Denis Sweet

found most successful, and the areas which may need more work.

While a one page synopsis, which students found on the tables in Commons, does exist, the actual legislation is far more complex.

"The proposal is a 51-page document which discusses all the requirements in some detail," said Assistant Dean of Students Ann Scott.

"The legislation boils it down into recommendations, but doesn't go into detail... the legislation is what is actually on the floor of the faculty," she continued.

■ **The EPC expresses pride over a job well done**

When you've spent any amount of time on a project, let alone the years that some faculty members have spent on the Educational Policy Committee's recommendations, you come to really appreciate, really feel proud, of certain aspects of your work.

"What I am most proud of, what I see as the greatest accomplishment of the EPC's proposal, is

the encouragement of interdisciplinary [coursework]," Professor of German Denis Sweet said.

"Requirements, for the most part, are no longer simply bound to a particular department/discipline. A great deal of fluidity has been introduced which corresponds with the times in which we live," he explained.

Jack Pribram, Professor of Physics, finds the Human Cultures aspect of the policy the most vital.

"The most significant thing we're doing is the human culture requirement. I think that's a big change. The idea is to get all of us appreciating the idea that there are [many] cultures within all of us," said Pribram.

He took this aspect of the proposal as encouragement for the foreign language requirement.

"Part of the language requirement is to help with the culture issue," he continued.

Yet while the individual parts have merit, the work as a whole merits some amount of pride, the faculty members maintained.

"I am proud of the entire proposal, the process of work over four years by many members of the faculty which preceded it, the fact that it builds on existing strengths of the faculty and the curriculum, and the fact that the specific recommendation it are in response to many criticisms we heard from both faculty members and from students about the current curriculum," said Dean of the Faculty Martha Crunkleton.

■ **Questions of logistics**

As much as the EPC is trying to save implementation issues for another time, they are realizing that they must be dealt with.

"This is a very sticky wicket and has to be dealt with successfully," said Sweet.

"But, judging from the President's remarks at the faculty meeting last night, even he doesn't know how things are going to turn out as far as implementation and its consequent costs are concerned."

"My understanding of the EPC's actions thus far is to give

priority to the principle and see what will be there to attend to the implementation later," he continued.

Crunkleton was able to provide a more substantive answer.

"There will need to be additional resources added to the faculty; some of those will come from reallocation of existing resources, some will come from adding new resources, some will come

"I'd like someone to know a little more science than when they came in here, to know] that they can write better, that they know something of the world outside of New England."

Jack Pribram

from seeking external support from foundations. These are the same methods the College has used for the past several years to address curricular changes.

■ **Liberal Arts Degree**

In discussing the proposal, the faculty members of the EPC have been stressing their struggle to determine what a Liberal Arts degree from Bates College really means. Their answers were varied.

Crunkleton cited the proposal which differentiates a liberal arts education from a general education.

"Liberal arts education until the present century emphasized broad and deep knowledge of many areas which were regarded as integrated and complementary."

"...[It is general because] it is expected of every students... it serves as a benchmark for every graduate of the institution... [and]

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Forum highlights logistics, student opinion

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I want to do with these [new] requirements," commented Allison Gillen '97.

"I meet the prospective students and I tell them about the requirements and a lot of prospective students like the fact that they're so loose," said Alicia Bucknam '98.

Other students found the new requirements helpful.

"You're at a liberal arts college to get a broad based education. I don't think requirements are the devil, I think they're very very good," said Jen Rifkin '99.

■ EPC proposals: now up to the faculty

The EPC's proposal is currently in a stage of faculty discussion; nothing is actually being voted on yet. The EPC's job is done. It is now up to the faculty.

"What the faculty will do, we don't know, the committee has done its work," said Crunkleton.

While the committee has completed its work, the members are trying to make sure that discussion does not get bogged down with issues of implementation.

"The faculty is not considering implantation issues [at this time] ... We want to discuss this at a level of first principles-what a degree from Bates means. After this stage comes the "considering of the second order issues of implementation" said Crunkleton.

"For all of you who are concerned about this, I encourage you to talk to faculty members. I am not so naive to believe that they will pass all of the proposals," continued Crunkleton.

■ Foreign Languages: pro and con

The foreign language requirement continued to be a point of contention at Monday's forum. The foreign language requirement was one of the last additions to the proposal, added this year. It also had seems to have had the least

student input.

Again, there were many concerns from students who had taken many foreign language courses in high school and who did not feel that they needed to take them again. But another issue, an issue of respect, was mentioned. "People who choose not to take a language at Bates, their wishes should be respected," said Nate Kostoulakos '98.

The committee strove to assure students that they should not measure their potential college language experiences by their high

"The faculty is not considering implantation issues [at this time]....We want to discuss this at a level of first principles.

**Martha Crunkleton,
Dean of the Faculty**

school experiences.

"Some of these concerns are very specific, indicating a kind of underswell, an anxiety that I had a bad experience in high school and I don't want to deal with it. I can almost guarantee that they're of a different order than high school," said Sweet

The committee also provided a real world perspective that showed the need for a foreign language requirement.

"The Board of Trustees was on campus this weekend and they talked about the proposal and about the criticisms they heard [especially relating to the foreign language requirement] ... They were adamant about foreign language. They really thought it gave graduates a leg up [in the job market] and they were really surprised [at the amount of opposition]."

The problems of a foreign language requirement seem numerous-time, labs, inability to get into first-choice classes, needing

two years of a language to go abroad (although going abroad was offered as a way to satisfy the requirement), among others.

But a possible solution was offered by a student. "Over the summer or short term, offer an intensive language course," as a way to take the courses and/or still go abroad, advised Amy Keith '99.

Another student suggested that foreign language courses, which typically involve more class-hours than other humanities classes, should receive additional course credit.

n Questions of science: binding requirements and eliminating sets

This forum illustrated that the difficulties in taking a foreign language go hand in hand with the difficulties involved in taking a science.

One student lamented that, "I would really like to take a foreign language and take a year abroad, but I'm a science major."

Another student advocated that, "Before you implement a foreign language requirement, you should look at the science requirement. Look at those [over-enrolled science courses] before dealing with a foreign language.

Again extreme dissatisfaction was expressed at the Science Symposium aspect of the requirements, as well as the fact that the new requirement eliminates a natural science set, an element that some feel brought coherence to the requirement.

"The fact that the labs in sciences occur [only] in the afternoon causes a ripple effect," agreed Crunkleton. This "ripple effect" eliminates many course offerings from science majors.

Often the only solution for a science major is to know what they want out of Bates, the minute they arrive at Orientation. One sophomore biology major, talked about her desire to go abroad and its influence on her course selection- she has taken almost nothing but requirements for the past year and a half.

Although sympathy was expressed for those trying wanting to do everything, Crunkleton ad-

vised students that, "Part of a liberal arts degree is figuring out what you can't do."

n First Year Advising/ First Year Seminars: looking into logistics

One issue met with unanimous approval: the need for increasing and improving advising services. The addition of the requirement that all First Year students take a First Year Seminar course with their advisor is the EPC's way of dealing with this.

While general approval of this requirement exists, technical

"You're at a liberal arts college to get a broad-based education. I don't think requirements are the devil."

Jen Rifkin, '99

complaints proliferate. The most vocal of them regards staffing. Crunkleton, however, was able to answer these questions at the Open Forum.

"[The FYS] would require seven more seminars than we already have, and it's possible that we'll have to hire more faculty," she said.

Crunkleton explained that under the current policy all departments are required to teach a seminar, but not all do. If these departments contribute, the need for hiring faculty primarily to teach FYS would be lessened.

Another concern of many students involves the process of both getting into seminars and what happens if a student wants to drop a course or is a JanFrosh. While both concerns are being looked into, there is no answer yet.

One first year student added insight into the dilemma that those wishing to take a First Year Seminar.

"I have applied to FYS, but

I didn't get into any of them. All of my [other] classes are big... FYS are great but... people will still only apply to the ones they're interested in ... When I applied to this school, the faculty to student ratio was small, but all my classes are huge."

■ Human Cultures: a new multicultural requirement

Considering that a lack of a multicultural requirement is what helped start the reevaluation of current general education requirements, there has been surprisingly little discussion on the topic.

The proposal suggests a requirement of two courses in human cultures. One requirement is for a course focusing on non-United States based societies and cultures and the other focusing on the diversity of cultures found within the United States.

One student attempted to start the discussion on the Human cultures requirement, "It seems like a really weak requirement ... that it doesn't really get at what needs to be gotten at ... really looking at race and ethnicity."

"It is the strongest recommendation that the committee considered," answered Crunkleton.

n Student suggestions

At the first Open Forum, a last minute suggestion of a Pass/Fail option, as a way of encouraging students to take a variety of courses, was offered. At the second Open Forum, the EPC surprised many people by coming back with a proactive response.

Assistant Dean of Faculty Ann Scott discussed how that in years past, the idea has been suggested and shot down. However, "I believe that the [faculty] culture now would respond much more favorably to pass/fail."

The idea was further elaborated by Crunkleton, who gave a very tentative sketch of what a pass/fail proposal would say.

"It would give every student an option to take two courses pass/fail, with students indicating which courses they would like beforehand."

Faculty discuss General Education Requirements

Continued from Page 2

in that the Faculty acts on the assumption that it should guide what students study during [their] four years at the institution." (General Education at Bates, 15)

The purpose of the proposal is, "to better reflect reality

and to enable our students to better interact with that reality," Sweet said.

"A lot of what you do here has long term payoffs. Don't ask me what a student will be doing when they're 22, ask me what they're doing when they're 32," offered Professor of Physics, Jack Pribram.

"Don't ask me what a student will be doing when they're 22, ask me what they're doing when they're 32."

"I'd like someone to know a little more science than when they came in here, [to know] that they can write better, that they know something of the world outside of New England. That they know how to learn, how to find out things," he elaborated.

"What does a Liberal Arts degree mean?" he asked, "Does it

mean reading a chapter about Africa? It means having people from Africa here, providing opportunities to go to Africa."

Ultimately, "we should know what it's like to be uncomfortable, that you can learn a lot from [being uncomfortable]," Pribram finished.

Clarke urges participation in student government

Continued from Page 1

nity."

The new President pointed to the need to "explore new ways of reaching and involving our friends and colleagues" as a prime goal for his administration. He explained that while the role of president should be one of leadership, the "impetus to action" lies in the student body.

"You will decide which issues are paramount," he said. "I will act according to the body's wishes."

Clarke also noted the importance of allowing dissent within the R.A.'s walls.

"This forum needs to be one where diversity and disagreement are warmly welcomed with pride, care, and with the profound gratitude of knowing that we are indeed strengthening this community and enhancing its life-long learning environment," he said.

■ Holley retires

Holley also gave his retirement speech during the meeting. The former President reflected upon the changes which the R.A. has undergone.

"I can't express my enthusiasm and my pride with how far our student government has come," Holley said.

"And I feel very proud that I have been able to serve as our student government leader for two terms. But today, it is time for me to retire."

One of Holley's goals

upon first taking the office was to increase the R.A.'s presence on campus. The Assembly was sometimes characterized as ineffective by members of the student body.

"The RA has come a long way since I first took office on February 1st, 1995," Holley said.

"We need to make students more comfortable in using our resources. We do this by being proactive and not reactive. Apathy has no place here."
Richard Holley '97

"Looking back I can notice the changes. The new RA is more professional, more organized, more representational, and more proactive."

Holley pointed to the R.A.'s recent co-drafting of the Open Flame Policy as an example of the heightened importance of the R.A.

"The R.A. actually co-drafted a college policy on equal footing with the administration. That's unprecedented," he said.

Holley characterized the R.A. as an "effective tool for students to utilize," but also challenged the Assembly to continue

improvement.

"We need to make students more comfortable in using our resources. We do this by being proactive and not reactive. Apathy has no place here," he said. The new administration, Holley said, will take on his challenge.

"I am confident that my job here is done," Holley said. "And now it is time for new leadership. Liam Clarke is a very confident and respectable student leader."

■ Clarke/Velluto Administration seeks officers

Matthew Velluto '99 was sworn in as the Vice President of the R.A. at the same meeting, after winning re-election by a slim margin. Velluto was Vice President under Holley, and has also served on the budget committee and the committee on committees.

Velluto pledged to work on strengthening student/faculty committees. These committees have been criticized for not taking student opinion seriously.

He also pinpointed student apathy as a major goal for the R.A. to tackle during the new administration.

The Clarke Administration began at the moment that the new president received his ceremonial gavel.

Clarke explained that applications for the other members of his cabinet are currently available in the R.A. office, at the top floor of Chase Hall.

He expressed enthusiasm



Passing the torch: Liam Clarke speaks to the R.A. Pat Serengulian photo.

at the possibilities for the Assembly's future.

"As Shakespeare said, success, accomplishment, and progress all come from uniting knowledge and action," Clarke

said.

"This team of representatives possess the knowledge, the will, and the impetus to action necessary to effect positive change in our campus community."

Borgmann delivers lecture on cyberspace and schools

by Sarah Gunn

The impact of technology on higher education will be the topic of the talk "Will Colleges Disappear in Cyberspace? Information and Education."

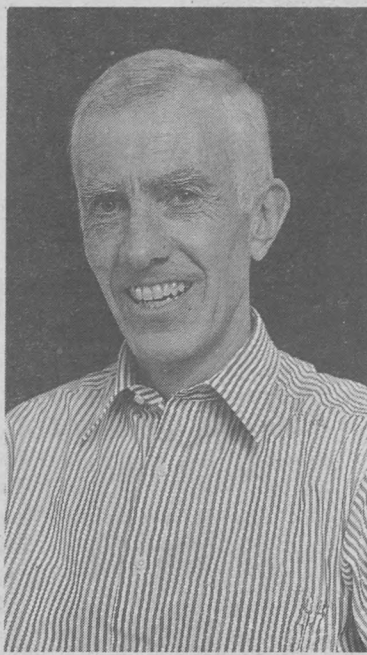
Albert Borgmann will deliver the annual Rayborn L. Zerby Lecture at Bates College on Monday, February 3 at 7:30 pm in the Edmund S. Muskie Archives.

Borgmann, professor of philosophy at the University of Montana since 1973, is the author of numerous works on technology and philosophy including "Technology and the Character of Con-

temporary Life: a philosophical inquiry," and "Crossing the Postmodern Divide."

Borgmann's critique of technology honors the late Rayborn L. Zerby of Lewiston, professor emeritus of religion and dean of the faculty at Bates.

Each year, the program brings to campus leading commentators on contemporary religious thought. Previous Zerby lecturers have included Holocaust chronicler Elie Wiesel and the Rev. Peter Gomes, a Bates alumnus and minister of Memorial Church at Harvard University.



Albert Borgmann speaks.

The R.A. is accepting applications for officer positions. Contact: lclarke or go to the R.A. office

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Faculty meeting questions the meaning of meetings

by Keri Fox

Tuesday afternoon in Chase Hall, the Faculty held the first of many extra meetings to discuss the Educational Policy Committee's, General Education at Bates: A Report to the Faculty.

As a surprise to the many faculty in attendance, the students of the Committee offered a run-down of the opinions, questions, and concerns raised by various students during the past two student Open Forums.

One professor offered the opinion that there needed to be "a second reading, and that [we need to] move at that kind of pace if we're serious about having student involvement in the process."

In this vein, Professor of English Carole Taylor suggested that there be a search "for alternative venues to those great big venues where everything feels like posturing," referring to any type of open forum, but specifically to the student Open Forums.

"I am concerned that all of the burden was being placed on [students], rather than anything transformative occurring among us," said Professor of Anthropology Elizabeth Eames.

The news section is looking for a few warm bodies.

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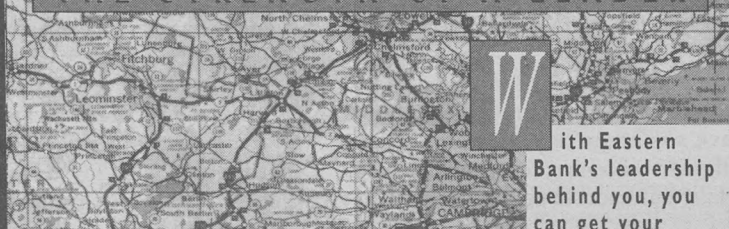
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Features

Friday, January 31, 1997

Stranger in a Strange Land

by Alice Reagan

Alice Reagan '97 spent last semester in Bali, Indonesia with the School for International Training. These excerpts are taken from an independent study project in travel writing.

The rain woke me up last night. First I was asleep, then next I was awake, shivering and pulling myself up to find the blanket in a ball at the foot of the bed. I dragged it over me like a shroud, laid flat as I could underneath, and tried to figure out what all the noise was. Oh, rain. But not just rain, this was sheets and sheets of water pounding on my roof, it might as well have been my head. I flinched when it got even harder. It grew and shrank in intensity, rhythm, meter and rhyme. Sleep was out of the question; this was not a lullaby, but a symphony, and one that I wasn't entirely comfortable with. Then, a new sound outside: something crying and pawing at my door: the cat. I'd seen him for the first time the day before, moving silently through the yard. Only the sounds now were like no cat I'd ever heard. Wild cries, moans, shrieks. He wanted in. My eyes flew open and stared at nothing while I pulled my knees up and huddled under the thin blanket. I would no more let that animal inside than go dance in the storm outside. I imagined what he must look like: muddy, angry, with his soaked fur plastered down over his body. I willed the cat to stop pushing and crying at the door; he was liable to wake up the whole house. I was scared of the cat, scared of the rain—hadn't the rain designed this cat, brought him to my door in the middle of the night?

He finally stopped... and I exhaled, didn't even know I'd been holding my breath. I don't remember falling asleep, but I must have sometime during the rain that night. I woke up late the next morning to a few dripping leaves and flowers petals that hadn't been washed away.

Here, wildness isn't something to shy away from. It is a fact of life, and Ibu waves the fly off her nasi campur without thinking twice -- or even once

There was clear evidence of the cat on my white tile porch: a set of muddy prints let from the stairs to my door—a tangle of prints there, some on the wall—and then they led off the side, inexplicably dropping away.

I, for one, watched the rainy season coming this year in Bali. I was there for that first light shower one steaming afternoon, after weeks of no water at all. It was pitifully short and sparse. The few drops that did hit my upturned face were warm. Warm spring rain is fine and delightful in New Hampshire or Massachusetts, but in Bali it's just more of the same constant temperature. I was there when the rain came very early in the morning. I lay in bed listening to the ting-ting! on the roof, the geckos on my walls danced. Those first, courageous rains were separated by hot October days with clear blue skies that greeted me each morning; by ten o'clock the white equator sun burned everything in its reach. But by Halloween the rains came al-

most every afternoon. The cloudless sky would fill with ominous black clouds within twenty minutes as I eagerly watched and hoped. You can feel it in the air, just before it rains, an unbearable heaviness, total saturation and then, finally, a few fat drops hit the ground and you'd better run for cover because here it comes. The rain hits the earth in waves, as if the clouds are marching past overhead in orderly rows. It can slow to a drizzle for five minutes, then pick up speed and force again in a second. When it finally stops, the world returns to normal. The chickens come out of hiding from cowering under their roost, the dogs reappear, and I sit on my porch and watch the sun slowly make dry spots in the yard.

Today I woke up to a rainy overcast day, a rarity. It was an autumn morning like the autumns I know: windy and wet. I sank under my covers and let the rain stream past the window. Now the sun's light has made an appearance, but the clouds still obscure the sky. I'm spending the day inside, with my notebook, relishing the feeling of long sleeves. This rainy day is a gift, and I might even take a nap to celebrate.

Last night I dreamed I was taking an eye exam. It was an important test, and it was crucial that I pass. I knew that it wasn't for my driver's license or a new pair of glasses. There was a poster with letters in front of me that I had to read aloud, and I got down to even the tiniest row, no problem. Then a person with a white coat and clipboard led me into another room. She pointed to a table that seemed very far away.

"What are those objects?"

I strained. "A ball, a box, a picture of a man," I answered.

"And how big are they?"

I tried to show her with my hands. She peered down at me. Was I that much shorter than her?

"Describe the colors you see."

I leaned forward with my whole body, squinting. "I... I don't know."

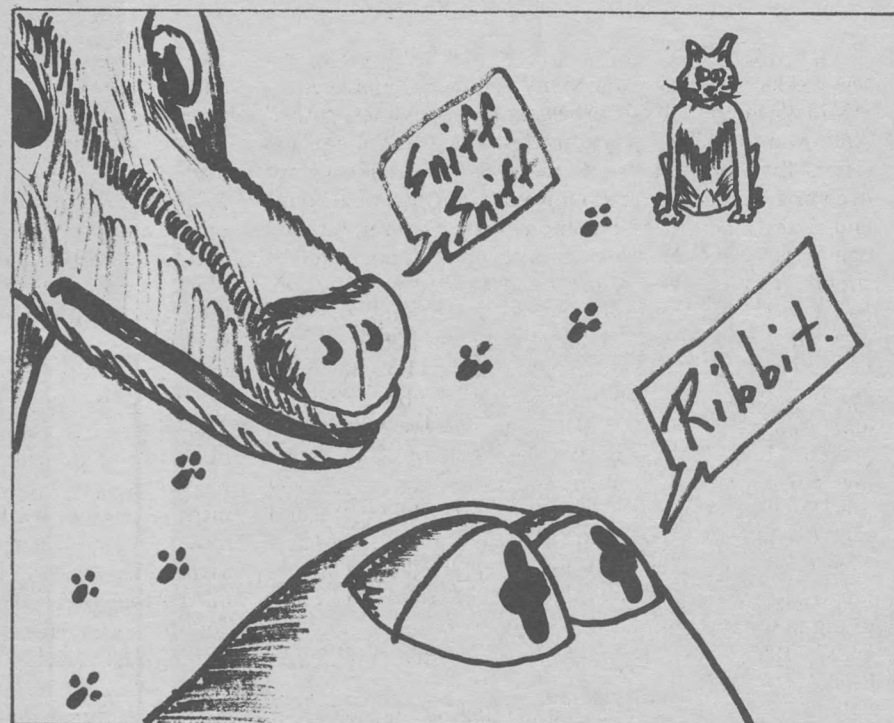
The woman's disapproving look is the last thing I remember of the dream.

How well am I seeing these days?

The black birds in the sky are tiny specks against the huge scenery of the Sawah. Things are vast on this tiny island. It's a big, big place. And minute, too. This morning a chicken shit on my porch: a little clear fluid, some brown pellets. Immediately, twenty tiny red ants were feasting at the edge of a teeny, tiny lake. Nature is very close here.

Bali demands my attention. I can't escape the insects, the dogs, the rain. There is no sanitized, safe place to hide out here. This wilderness will not be packaged, processed, or tamed. Here, wildness isn't something to shy away from. It is a fact of life, and Ibu waves the fly off her nasi campur without thinking twice—or even once.

Maybe in a year, or ten, this landscape would become part of me, too. I would no longer marvel at the rain, or the cat shrieking in it. But for now I am an explorer, a watcher, and a waiter. I approach the insects on my wall with equal parts awe and disgust, I talk to the chickens,



and let the dogs sleep on my porch. Bali wakes me up every day, and for now, I am a willing pilgrim.

Nature is very close here, sometimes closer than I would like. I woke up today to find a dead rat on my pristine porch, right where I sit to eat breakfast every day. It was more than dead: it was decapitated and bloody. Good morning. The killer is the cat, no doubt, whose name I found out is Lulu. Lulu! I wonder which member of the Balinese family I'm staying with came up with that one. Lulu looks like your run-of-the-mill domestic cat, except for a funny crook in his tail. Right near the tip, his brown and black tail goes ninety degrees south. That crook makes all the difference. He'll eat anything: whatever scraps my Balinese brother doesn't want, flowers, even the huge yellow insects that flop around the tiles when my porch light is on after dinner. Those bugs don't stand a chance. Lulu casually walks past, bends his feline head down, and laps them up, one by one. Lulu's a sadist, to boot. He likes to catch frogs, just to play with them. He holds one down with two paws, peers closely, draws his paws away, and then when the poor frog leaps for freedom, Lulu quickly closes in again. This goes on until the cat punctures a froggy lung. Then he just bats the dead frog around the porch, while I watch warily, raising my eyes from a book. I drew the line one evening and physically chased Lulu away after he tossed a dead frog onto my lap.

I watch the chickens strut and preen in the yard. It gets exciting when they go at each other, facing off while the feathers around their necks stick straight out in a ridiculous attempt to look ferocious. Give it up. You're a chicken.

The dogs are even more ubiquitous. They're everywhere: in the shade at the market, running between guests at a wedding ceremony, resting on my porch steps. They are all generally the same size, small by U.S. standards, and each of them are in some state of disrepair: mange covering their haunches, a lame front leg, a torn ear. Half the females have lost their stomach muscles long ago from carrying and nursing countless litters. The skin of their belly swings back and forth as they trot beside me on the way to school, oblivious. The males fight over food rather than territory, sometimes viciously. I'm still not immune to the sound of a dog crying in pain after he was the loser in a scuffle.

Right now there's a moth caught in my bathroom. He arrived yesterday. I have no idea how he got in there, and

Continued on Page 7

Celebrations: Fall Festivals Thai and Hallow'd

by Else Kyyro

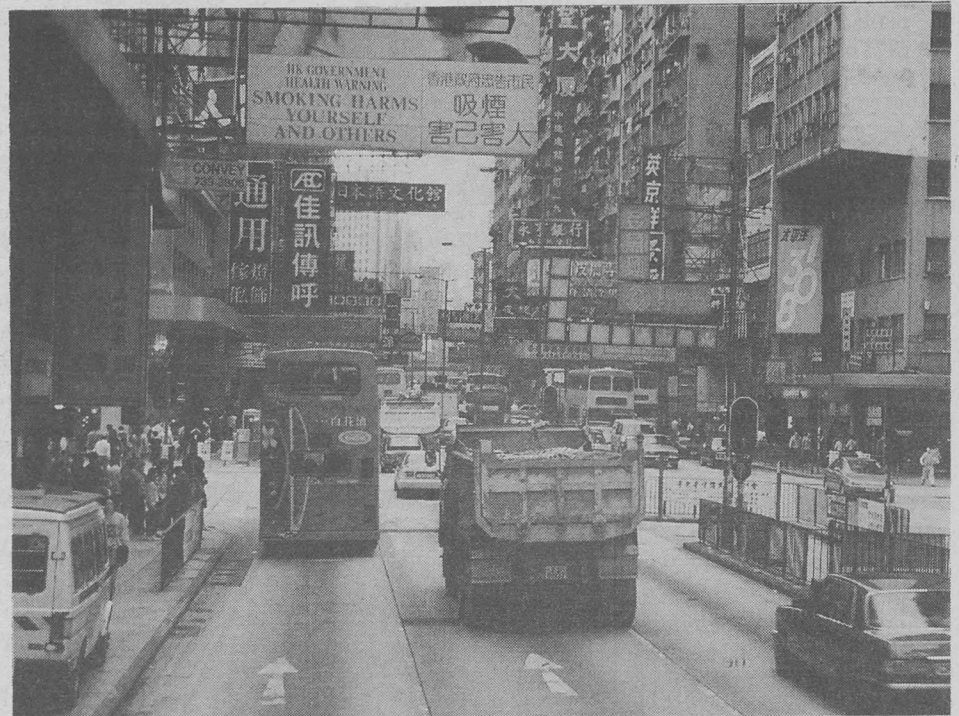
It was September 1994. I had known Wing-Yu for a few weeks, when she came to my door and announced: 'It is Mid-Autumn Festival next week. Do you want to come?' And I went. There we were, uncle and auntie Lai, the two sisters, their kid brother, and me, who looked like a giant in comparison, standing in a tiny hallway filled with books and clothes and videotapes and a bike. Never mind they had to move the sofa to let me in, never mind none of their slippers fit me. We were together, celebrating the moon, and it was as foreign to me as it was for the family that had never had a Westerner in their apartment before. Uncle Lai cooked rice and fried the shrimp he had bought on the street. We filled ourselves with crystal clear bean noodles, and counted the number of moon cakes we had for the evening. It was already dark when we stepped out, carrying rainbow-colored lanterns and ascending to a nearby hill. Together with many other families we lit candles and stared at the moon, licking the remnants of sweet lotus paste from our fingers. When we finally got back to the apartment, I felt restless. The family's incomprehensible chattering in the background, my head and feet touching the ends of the tiny bed, I thought it strange that I still felt at home.

It was December 1995. Panda had rescued me from having to stay in a guest house and promised to host me during my time in Bangkok. Upon arrival to Samutprakarn I tried to sleep. My body kept shaking in the heat that made the air move and transformed typical city scenes into a mirage-like setting. There was nothing special, it seemed, about the morning. When I stepped out into the streets, I saw food vendors selling fried rice and fruit, pickup trucks full of people, and stray dogs searching for food in the burning sun. Nobody else seemed to care about the heat, the dirty air, or the rush; nobody else cared that it was Christmas. By chance I came across Panda's aunt who, unlike most Thai, was a Christian. Clinging to that trace of familiarity I gladly accepted her offer to go to church in the evening. I remember trying to imagine angels around me, thinking that I needed all the protection I could get on the wobbly truck that was transporting us to the shabby suburbs. We passed a golden temple, a strip tease joint, and several night markets. There were clothes, beggars, food carts shaking under the weight of pineapple cookies and steaming meat. When we finally arrived at our destination the sight took me by surprise. The place of worship was an ordinary white building with a large cross above the entrance. Inside we discovered unfinished offices and

play rooms, a soup kitchen, and stairs to a hall where the service was held. Everything looked so mundane, so unholy.

It struck me that there was no real altar, that people came and went, laughing and clapping their hands to those performing music and skits in the front. Except for one hymn, all was presented in Thai. Halfway through I was still staring at the stage, occasionally applauding at the performers who kept changing every five minutes, when a little boy looked at me a few meters away and smiled. He was maybe four, wearing a green bow-tie and a satin vest and waving at me. 'Hel-lo!' the boy uttered with a glare in his eyes, giggling and revealing all his missing teeth. 'Hi!' I replied. People around me turned to see, also smiling, and someone whispered: 'Everyone loves him. He is very nice boy, always happy. Father is a policeman, but die when boy only one year old.' I turned to look once more, somehow expecting the vision to have changed since the revelation. Yet all I could see was a child who smiled and smiled and smiled. I thought there must have been magic in that boy. All of a sudden it seemed as if everyone was speaking Finnish.

It was October 1996. 'Are you sure there isn't an age limit for this?' I asked, but Lisa brushed it off by telling me not to worry. 'It's your first Halloween, of course we have to go,' I was the nerdy one coming from a math tutorial with no costume, while her hair was already standing up and her face covered with freckles. Moral support was the key: never before had I gone up to strangers asking for candy, and the whole idea seemed ridiculous. Yet the first three houses just wished us happy Halloween, giving without questions. 'This is so cool!' I told my friends, all excited. When we got to the fourth house, the lady laughed, saying: 'In all my 17 years here, you are the first Bates students to come trick or treating at my door.' 'Gotta make history,' we



concluded and continues down the street, our bags gradually filling with candy. 'Did you ever hear about that Japanese exchange student who was shot on Halloween?' I tried, succeeding in horrifying my friends, who asked me to shut my mouth. I defended myself by saying that they were the ones who asked me to check for razor blades in my chocolate. 'Lewiston sleeps so early,' Lisa noted, 'If we were in Chicago the kids would be up until midnight.' We returned in an hour, amusing our friends who got their share of the candy and congratulated us for being brave. My comfort zone was again a little larger.

(Thank you to all my wonderful hosts throughout the past few years: the When that siren went off the whole country stopped. Cars were pulled over to the side of the road and everyone stood in silent attention for those moments. , Settapokins, Arnolds, Melvilles, Feldmans, and the Itkonen family.)

Continued from Page 6

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he probably has no idea how he's going to get himself out. He's huge, with a fat black body, thick antenna that are twice as long as him, and two huge wings with an intricate matching pattern in brown and black. He's pressed against the window, which doesn't open, overlooking the sawah. I tried to shoo him out towards the door, but he'd have none of that. He didn't budge a millimeter when I showed, but his antenna flicked back and forth relentlessly at the window. This morning when I went in to brush my teeth he was in the same spot. Didn't he move all night? It was dark in there for hours. I wonder if he will devise a way out through a gap in the roof, or die with his antennae quivering in the grass.

Write for *The Student*
Weekly Meetings: Sundays at 7,
Chase 224

Studying in Israel was Well Worth the Risks

by Deborah Cantor

Having been back in the United States for approximately a week, I went bicycle riding with my family in New York. The loud whirring of a plane overhead suddenly startled me. It took me a moment to realize that I wasn't standing on the grassy field of my dorm complex in Israel, listening to army fighter planes bringing victims of Hizbullah attacks to Soroka Hospital; I was safely in America. Yet, was I really safe?

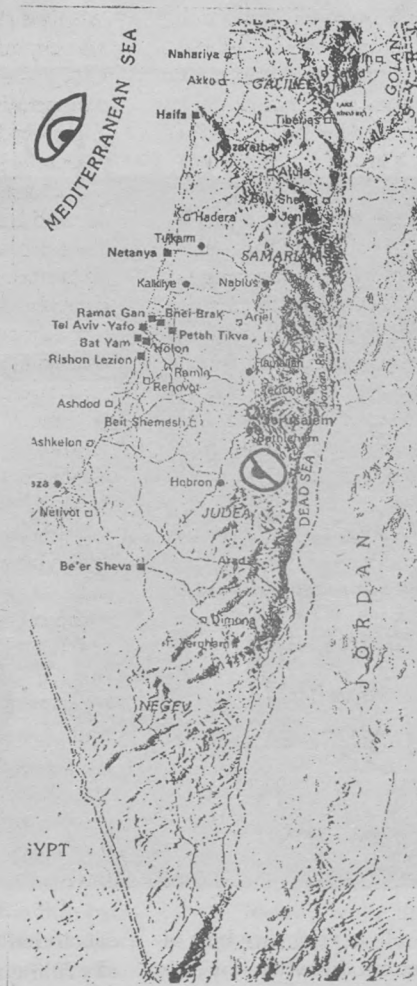
A month and a half after I returned to the States, the July 17th tragedy of TWA's flight 800 occurred. I remember remarking to a friend that it was as if the terrorism had followed me home. Whatever caused the destruction of that plane does not occur on a daily basis here in the United States and so we were not expecting it. Since Israel is a geographically tiny country surrounded by enemies, all Israelis have to be alert to these problems all the time and ready to act if need be.

After high school all Israelis must serve in the army. Men must serve three years and women must serve two. Men go into combat training and women get basic training and then they work in teaching jobs, in administrative posts, and in intelligence. After the army, people go on reserve duty. Recently, a few females were accepted into the prestigious air force training program. When people move to Israel they must join the army. The army unites all Israelis.

As an American, having never attended the army proved awkward for me at times. Every two to four weeks I took a bus from BeerSheva to my bassoon lessons in Tel Aviv and the buses were always packed with young soldiers, not much younger than I was, returning to their army bases. My Israeli roommate told me that she grew a lot during her time in the army and that she needed that tirrie, which is equivalent to our first two years in college, to get tougher. Every ride I was always reminded of our different lifestyles.

This difference of lifestyles was evident in the Israeli and the American reactions to a series of bus bombings that occurred in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and on the outskirts of Tel Aviv. While Israelis and Americans alike mourned the death of the innocent victims, most Israelis that I encountered did not let the incidents immobilize them. My aunt, for example, lives in Jerusalem and she told me that after the bus bombings she got right back on the buses more determined than ever. She said that no one was going to limit her lifestyle. My great aunt told me that the only way to face my fear of the Jerusalem buses was to ride them. So we both got over our fear of the #18 bus together. Many Americans, on the other hand, were traumatized by these heinous acts.

The first of three suicide bus bombings in Israel hit my overseas student program hard. One of my peers lost her sister in that first Jerusalem bus bombing. Her sister was Sarah Duker, one of the two Americans mentioned in most



American news mediums. The other victim was Sarah's fiancé, with whom she had come to spend the year in Israel while he fulfilled a requirement for rabbinical school. I remember we were all called into the yellow bomb shelter in our dorm complex. The whole episode was unreal and the mere thought of returning home, never to see my own sister again, was overwhelming. My peer was sent home immediately and although no one expected her to return, she came back to finish the semester, vowing never to set foot in Jerusalem again.

If I had followed my original plans to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim in Tel Aviv, I would have been standing half a block away from where the second bomb exploded. In that case, the suicide bomber had tried to enter the crowded shopping mall but was deterred by the armed guards visibly planted at the door. Instead he detonated himself in the middle of the crowded intersection just as the pedestrian light turned green. Among the victims were a bunch of young children dressed up for Purim. Some of my friends, who had kept our plans, actually saw bodies fly in the air and body parts hit the street. One of my friends was so shook up that she considered leaving the program after that incident. We kept reading about Katyusha attacks where our group had been a few weekends ago, near the border of Lebanon.

In addition to the loss of innocent lives, the bombings created a sense of inner helplessness. We all knew that tensions were high between the Israelis and their Arab neighbors, but we had no control over what could happen, when it would happen, and where it would happen. We had to be extra careful at all times. Each morning we had to go through a knapsack check point where armed guards inspected our bags. In the library we had to check our bags in the front. If any type of bag was found to be unattended, Security was called and everyone stood back while it was blown up. A few times our academic classes were evacuated in order for Security to detonate an unclaimed bag. While the explosion scared me, the Israeli students probably didn't think twice about this daily occurrence.

During those especially tense times, I often caught myself imagining which crowded spot on campus a bomb was likely to explode in. I stopped riding the buses and I stopped going to the shuk (the produce market), where both Arabs and Jews sold their wares. The few times I did ride the bus I had eyes on the back of my head. There were times when I was afraid to go to the supermarket for fear of being in a large crowded space- an easy target.

In our common state of fear, our overseas student program grew closer during the bombings. Some parents made ultimatums about their children leaving on the next plane out of Israel. We did lose one couple on the program who decided

that they didn't want to be worrying if the other was safe all the time. Everyone else told their parents that they didn't want to leave. My parents told me to decide. They recommended that I stay unless I felt at all in danger and then I could fly out as soon as possible. They told me that our program would help us leave if they felt we were in imminent danger. My parents also reminded me that if worst came to worst, I could enroll as a visiting student at Columbia or one of the other universities near my house so that I wouldn't lose a semester. Knowing that we might have been splitting up soon actually united my group even further. The program planned local activities for us in response to concerned parents who wanted us not to travel for a while.

I often wondered what the bomb victims were doing before they lost their lives? Where were they going? What did they think at the last moment? Were they aware that something was wrong? What were the suicide bombers thinking? How could they justify destroying other people's lives and their own if they were fighting a war for better living conditions? Most of all, I questioned how anyone could suddenly bestow themselves with the right to take away innocent people's lives? One victim of the Ashkelon bombing, as told in the Jerusalem Post, was a young female about to complete her last day of military service and then to get married. I learned of a family that lost one son in the

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Crayon? Write
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wallpaper.

first bus bombing and after mourning for his brother, the second son was blown up in the next bombing.

The same American identity that I wished I could hide while riding on the bus with a pack of Israeli soldiers was also a positive reminder in the back of my head. I kept telling myself that if things got really bad I could always leave the country, "Because I'm American." Then I started to feel guilty because while I could pack up and leave, my roommates, group leaders, and family who had moved to Israel couldn't. I later caught myself thanking God that I'm American, as I read *The New York Times* from the distance and safety of my home.

However, this same identity did enable me to enter places that I never would have while identifying as Jewish. I was able to walk through the Arab quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem without any trouble. When my parents came to Israel for Passover break, I joined their tour group. As a group of "American" tourists we gained access to parts of the West Bank such as Jericho, Bethlehem and Nazareth. We also entered the Dome of the Rock, the main mosque of all Arabs. In Bethlehem I took some photographs of the Arab signs which catered to English and French speaking tourists about how Israel was stealing the Palestinian land in exchange for peace. Signs such as, "The city of the King of Peace is being stolen from us," "No more pieces of our land in the name of Peace," "Confiscation=INTIFADA," "Bethlehem will not move out for the settlers," and "Confiscate our land and confiscate our dreams for Bethlehem 2000," accompanied a cartoon entitled "Peace Israel style!!!" Which depicts an Israeli bulldozer destroying Arab land. It was fascinating to get an Arab perspective on the land conflict, but I couldn't wait to get back on our "American" tourist bus after seeing those signs.

One fringe benefit of the program was that I received Israeli media statements, speeches, and reviews firsthand via the computer. Other than the easy newspaper that we used in Hebrew class, which was usually outdated, my only other media source was the Jerusalem Post, because I didn't fully understand the regular newspaper and I could only watch CNN at the head of the program's house.

I really enjoyed receiving the package of Bates newspapers while I was abroad because it not only updated me, but it was familiar and reminded me that out of Israel I was part of a community. E-mail rooms were the mecca of my group. People spent hours in the computer labs because it was the quickest and cheapest way to communicate with families and friends at home and abroad. The other place people frequented was the mail room in the eager hopes of receiving anything.

Before the Israeli election, the political arena was hot. Would Shimon Peres, the Labor leader who had assumed the leadership of Israel after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had been assassinated, be re-elected? Or would his competitor, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, win as Prime Minister? Peres' aims were to continue the Peace Process negotiations with the Palestinians that Rabin had started. From what I understand the Palestinian position was and is the continued desire to have their own independent state to stop Israeli settlement in the West bank, and for Israel to give the Golan Heights back to Syria. Giving the Palestinians the West Bank and Gaza as their independent state would pose serious security issues for Israel as would giving the Golan Heights back to Syria, especially since some Israeli citizens reside in both the occupied territories and

the Golan Heights. I hiked in the Golan Heights and visited a community started by Americans who moved to Israel. It is the lushest most green and flowering land in Israel. Because of its geographical height above Israel, it's a strategic place for both Israel and Syria. I can't imagine what will happen to Israel if she does give it back. Signs all over pre-election Israel said "No land for peace, no Palestinian State." Other signs said "Ha am im ha Golan - The people with the Golan."

Mr. Netanyahu's platform concentrated on a pro-Israel stance of "peace with security." He stressed the importance of building up Israel and in so doing, not giving up land, but actually expanding Israel. This position posed a great threat to the Palestinians' desires. It also threatened the very essence of the Peace Process, which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had initiated and had actually lost his life over. My Israeli roommate wanted former Prime Minister Shimon Peres to win, while my two other Israeli suitemates and one of their boyfriends wanted Netanyahu to win. They were all afraid that Dror, my suitemate's boyfriend, would have to go fight in Lebanon. I went to bed

*When that siren went off,
the whole country stopped.
Cars were pulled over to the
side of the road and everyone
stood in silent attention for
those moments*

believing that Shimon Peres had won the election. I woke up to find out that after all the soldiers' votes had been tabulated, Mr. Netanyahu had been elected Prime Minister.

I returned to the United States a week after the Israeli election wondering how the new Likud government would fulfill its promises to the Israeli people without causing an all-out war to erupt. I started doubting Prime Minister Netanyahu's ability to prevent a war between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors when I read a June 22, 1996 article in *The New York Times* about the gathering of representatives from over twenty-one Arab countries in Cairo to discuss their reactions to Israel's change of government. A Mr. Baz was quoted as saying "We're not using this as a threat, but it's a prediction; if they take a defiant attitude it will be difficult for any Arab government to convince its people to warm up to Israel. And if peace negotiations are interrupted, violence is likely to erupt again."

Prime Minister Netanyahu's promise to his people was again tested last week when violence erupted over the opening of an archaeological tunnel in Jerusalem and Netanyahu gave building contractors permission to continue construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

The violence, uncertainty, and tests of my "American" identity that I endured were only a part of my Israel experience. Whenever I play my cassette tape of Achinoam Nini Gil Dor (a popular Israeli duo), I am reminded of our

group's bus ride back from our hike in the West Bank. I have fond memories of the group spirit and teamwork that accompanied our hikes. My program was approximately fifty Americans, three young adult leaders, plus the administrative staff and professors. We were a large enough group to be varied, yet small enough to know and support everyone.

Over the course of the semester I changed for the better and learned a lot about living on my own. A friend on the program recently reminded me that in the beginning of the program (when I initially went through mega-culture shock and actually booked a flight home so that I wouldn't miss the start of Bates), I said that part of the reason I was afraid to stay was that I'd never been alone with myself for so long and I wondered if I would like it. I obviously made the right choice and decided to stay. I learned more about my interests and through my daily dealings with the group and the Israeli population at large, I gained a new confidence in myself.

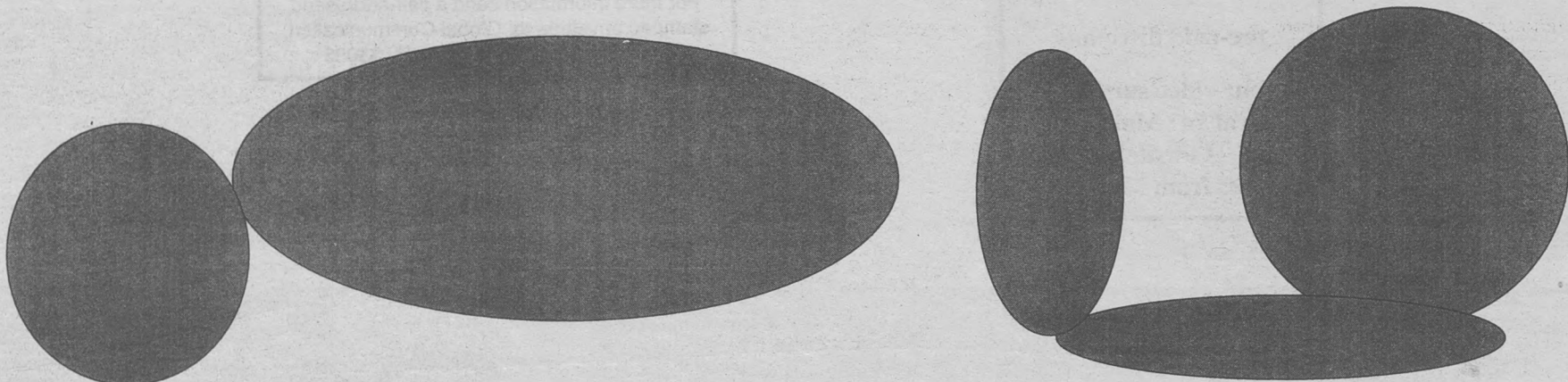
I learned to adapt to a completely new and different lifestyle by living with three Israeli roommates and by being in a state predominantly governed by religion. Everything closed down on Shabbat, for example, and on Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) a siren rang throughout the country. When that siren went off the whole country stopped. Cars were pulled over to the side of the road and everyone stood in silent attention for those moments. It's a unique feeling to know that the people in almost every aspect of the work force and society are all one religion. I remember thinking to myself how strange it was that every member of the BeerSheva Symphonetta were Jewish.

I learned what it was like to be the foreigner in another country; to live in a place where one's main language is not spoken as the main language. I experienced many of the daily frustrations of not fluently speaking the predominant language. I learned about the many responsibilities of keeping a house, cleaning a house, and cooking for oneself that most children and young adults take for granted. I came to recognize how lucky we are at Bates to have Commons. We don't think about the time it takes to plan and prepare our meals, we just expect them to be there.

I was able to visit and to be visited by family and acquaintances in Israel. I was happy to see the familiar face of my fellow Batesie, Yona Segal, when I visited her at Hebrew University. I came to realize how good our own Bates JCC really is in celebrating Judaism and in accepting new input and ideas. I was able to experience the celebration of Shabbat in households of differing religious practices. I participated in the phenomena of people from all over the world celebrating Shabbat at the Western Wall (a remnant of the second Israelite Temple that was destroyed years ago). I learned more about Judaism and the land by both visiting and revisiting sites I'd seen and not seen when I was in Israel in 1932.

In addition, I was able to take a few music lessons with the retired first bassoonist of the Israeli Philharmonic. I recommend any musician who is going abroad to take their instrument with them. There were moments when I needed to play my bassoon not only for music, but for the familiarity and the fact that it transported me away from my surroundings.

To think that I almost missed all these opportunities because I was afraid to take a risk is unbelievable.



Thy weekly horoscope

... looking through the Cat's Eyes

Aquarius (January 20th-February 18th): Like I said.. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow... The water fell from above like it always does in the hour of the Aquarian birth. Blah blah blah... you have to remember your dreams this week, they will be very telling.

Pisces (February 19th-March 20th): You should take the initiative this week. Talk to those who seem to be begging for advice. Keep your head on straight.

Aries (March 21st-April 19th): What can one do when things seem to be a little topsy-turvy? I'd recommend that you stay away from Commons this week. I don't know, something in the salad side dishes, cocktail sauce or salsa.

Taurus (April 20th-May 20th): Don't jump to too many conclusions this week. And also don't be a quitter. I know it sounds rough, but it's easier to quit than to try, my mother once said. (She's very wise, I swear)

Gemini (May 21st-June 20th): Hellooo... is there anybody in there? Don't expect people to get it. They don't. They just try and try and try and they let you down.

Cancer (June 21st-July 22nd): Don't go with the crowd. However, that doesn't mean that you have to go against the crowd. Observe your friends and reflect on their motivations.

Leo (July 23rd-August 22nd): It's not as easy to influence your friends as you think it is. Sometimes you want them to succeed in ways that aren't possible. Sometimes you question their motives... Let them fly and skip and run and let your hopes swim in their wake.

Virgo (August 23rd-September 22nd): You have this untapped level of artistry that you must not suppress. If you got it, flaunt it. This is an old faithful. Don't chit-chat with those who don't want to chit-chat with you.

Libra (September 23rd-October 22nd): Follow your heart, it might sound trite, be real polite, **don't make a false start**, and follow your heart.

Scorpio (October 23rd-November 21st): Tradition, tradition... tradition TRADITION... TRADITION... you are part of a long line of Scorpions who have channelled the stars. This week is really important. Once you recognize your weaknesses, your strengths will double.

Sagittarius (November 22nd-December 21st): There's quite a glare off the snow when you go out in the morning. Keep your mind clear and your motivation will follow. Your some swell smart-alec this week, huh?

Capricorn (December 22nd-January 19th): Hey, all that monkey business just isn't you. Stop squawkin' and start talkin'. Look after a friend this week, but don't suffocate them.



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(not the antithesis)



THE ANTITHESIS IS, OF COURSE, THE OPPOSITE, OR THAT WHICH IS BY ORDER OF IT'S VERY NATURE THAT WHICH IS NOT THAT WHICH IS. THE ANTI-THESIS IS NOT. IT IS NOT A THESIS. IT IS NOT NOTHING, BUT NEITHER IS IT ANYTHING WHICH IS IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZABLE. TO THE UNTRAINED EYE, THE ANTI-THESIS IS HARD TO FIND. EVEN TO THOSE WITH TRAINED EYES WHO, COINCIDENTALLY (OR NOT) SEEM TO BE THOSE WHO ARE GOOD AT SEEING NOTHING WHERE THERE IS BELIEVED BY MANY TO BE SOMETHING, RATHER THAN BY THOSE WHO HAVE A CERTAIN PENCHANT FOR SEEING SOMETHING WHERE INDEED NOTHING IS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE ANTI-THESIS. THOSE WHO HAVE THE LATTER MENTIONED PENCHANT SEEM ALSO TO BE THOSE WHO HAVE SOME INNATE ABILITY TO WRITE ABOUT WHAT MAY SEEM LIKE SOMETHING TO MANY BUT WHICH IS, AT THE SAME TIME SEEN BY THE FEW TO REALLY BE ABOUT NOTHING. THESES, THE PRESENCE OF THAT WHICH IS NOT THE ANTI-THESIS, SEEM TO BE PREDOMINANTLY PRODUCED BY THE LATTER MENTIONED FOLK.

THE ANTI-THESIS, WHICH CORRELATES CLOSELY, AS WE HAVE FOUND, WITH INABILITY TO PRODUCE SEEMING SOMETHINGS ABOUT NOTHINGS, SEEMS TO BE A REALM LEFT OVER FOR THE EDITORS OF THE BATES STUDENT WHOSE NEVER-ENDING QUEST FOR TRUTH LEAVES THEM THESISLESS (THE LAYMAN'S TERM FOR THE ANTI-THESIS) AND COLD.

IT SAYS HERE THAT "THESIS IS 25% EFFORT, 75% KEEPING YOUR BUTT IN THE CHAIR." (EMPHASIS MINE) THIS STATEMENT IS, TO THE ENLIGHTENED, BULLSHIT. IT IS EASY TO KEEP YOU BUTT IN A CHAIR. I DO IT ALL THE TIME. I RARELY MOVE UNLESS FOOD OR A MORE PRESSING FUNCTION OF THE BOWELS IS INVOLVED. DOES THE SEDENTARY NATURE OF MY DAILY (NON)ACTIVITY PREDICATE A THESIS-O'-MINE? HARDLY. THIS EFFORT TO SITTING RATIO SEEMS MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE (NON)CREATION OF AN "ANTI(THESIS)" HEREIN LIES THE POSSIBILITY OF A PARADOX. THIS PARADOX IS SUCESSFULLY AVOIDED IN THREE WAYS:

1. MAJOR IN SCIENCE, MATH, OR A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND ESCAPE THE QUESTION ALL TOGETHER.

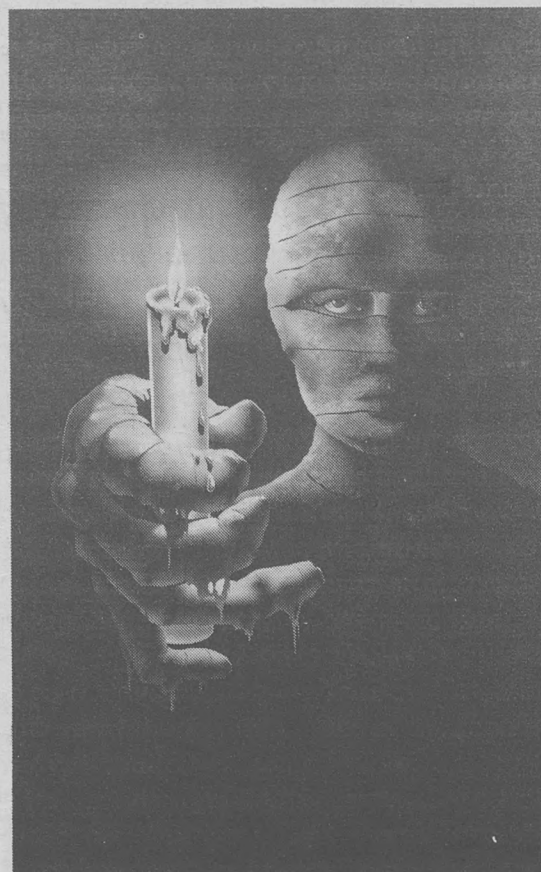
2. DROP OUT.

3. PASS YOUR ANTI-THESIS IN TO ANTI-BATES.

ALL BUT THE FIRST IT SEEMS ARE VIABLE AND ATTRACTIVE OPTIONS.

Bibliography for the Anti-Thesis

The Song That Never Ends (traditional)
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly
Being and Nothingness by Jean-Paul Sartre
Yo' Mama



This page has been independent study
project of Josiah Ahlgren, Jeremy
Breningstall, and Jennifer Weiers

Currently, multiple members of the Editorial Board of *The Bates Student* are seeking to graduate from Bates College. Unfortunately, they have come across one hindrance, namely, a rather large paper that seems to be expected of them. Save the *Student*! Save the free press! Contribute to a *Student* staffer's thesis. Send chapters, introductions, quotations, anecdotes, or basically anything that can fill space and be spread out flat enough to fit on a page to Box 309, and we will reserve a space for you in our staff box.

Please specify which thesis you would like your contribution to be directed to:

- Jeremy Breningstall (thesis 1)
- Jeremy Breningstall (thesis 2)
- Matthew Bromley
- Michael Della Bitta
- Augusta Fallerder
- Sarah Gunn
- Amanda Hinnant
- Jeremy Villano
- Jennifer Weiers
- Alan Wright

A Project of Section Seven

Forum

Friday, January 31, 1997

Bates takes the "a" out of apathetic ©

by Michael Ferrari

College kids today have it so tough. Trying to balance time in the classroom, on the sports field, and involvement in extracurricular activities and organizations. There is just no free time anymore to kick back and relax. In fact, even when there is time to kick back and take a load off, there's just not enough good stuff to do. Take for instance television, I mean, is it ridiculous or what that a highly selective liberal arts institution like Bates doesn't have Direct TV in every student lounge on campus. Ever since they abolished linen service and made individuals more responsible for biohazardous waste cleanup or face stiff dorm damage penalties, this place has completely gone down the tubes. And why aren't there more world wide web sites to surf at 4 am? Or more types of beer? And when is SEGA going to catch up with Nintendo 64? And what about quality sleep time — why can't we just seem to find any? Am I the only one carving out my class and social schedule to make sure I can get that 4 hour nap in during the afternoon on the weekdays?

Know what really sucks on this campus? Apathy. Lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal—for those who might need a dictionary definition. It seems that a lot of pundits and social commentators are pretty concerned with the decline in college students' activism or interest in current events and politics these days. And it's true, student political awareness has dropped

precipitously since the days of mass college protest during the anti-Vietnam War movement. But you know what, while I think it's pathetic that people don't care about politics, so much has been written of late about the causal chain of socio-political events that have weakened our faith in government and national institutions and increased our cynicism, that it's not worth repeating here. What I am most concerned with, is not the fact that people on this campus just don't

Know what really sucks on this campus... Apathy. Lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal

care about politics; moreover, they just don't really give a shit about anything.

Well, don't take it just from me. Take it from that queen of angry white females, Alanis Morrisette. Verse two, All I Really Want:

Do I wear you out
You must wonder why I'm
relentless and all strung out
I'm consumed by the chill of
solitary
I'm like Estella
I like to reel it in and then spit it
out
I'm frustrated by your apathy

Ok, maybe Alanis is overplayed and lame, but I don't think she's talking about political apathy. And it's pretty clear from the context of the song she is not talking about any individual in particular:

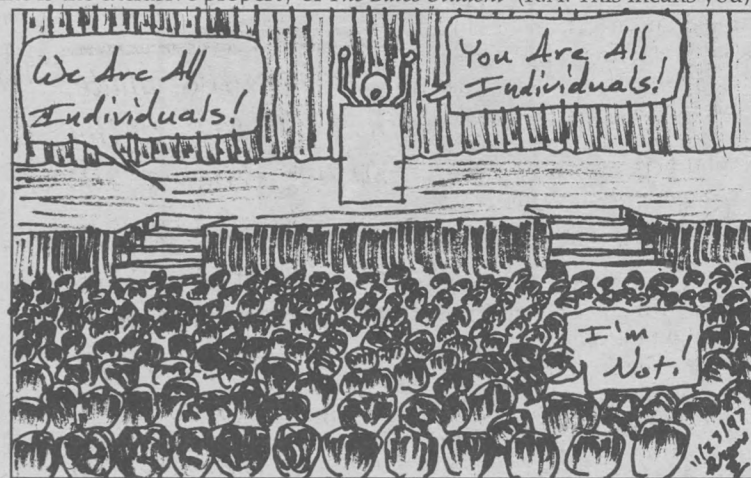
What I wouldn't give to find a
soulmate
Someone else to catch this drift
And what I wouldn't give to meet
a kindred

Enter defense mechanism numero uno: denial. "Dude, I am so sick of this shit about my generation not caring about anything. I do a lot. I do well in school. I work for a living. I play a sport. I'm involved in nine activities. I volunteer. I try to make a difference in my own way." And you know what? You are absolutely right, you do make a difference. Except there is one thing that all of the above have in common... anybody see it? Ready for that simple rule we all learned in youth soccer: There's no I in team folks. And don't get me wrong, I am not free to absolve myself from the guilt of this phenomena any more than any other student on this campus.

(Note to the Administration, does anyone know where the Bates College Mission Statement can be found in print? Reference couldn't help me over at George and Helen's — it's not on permanent reserve. It's not explicitly stated in the catalog, and I've noticed that it doesn't hang in any academic building on campus.) What is in the catalog; however, goes a little something like this:

"With intellectual development should come a

This headline is the exclusive property of *The Bates Student* (R.A. This means you)



Matt Bromley graphic

deepening moral awareness. A college woman or man should have the ability to lead as well as a willingness to cooperate. Comprehension of the complexities of life should lead to a sympathetic understanding of others and a generosity in response to them. One should develop a sense of social and civic responsibility. A high sense of integrity should guide the student's every action."

Former LBJ speech-writer, syndicated columnist, and neo-conservative talk-show host, Ben Wattenberg, has a little theory that he developed in his 1996 book entitled *Values Matter Most*. Wattenberg claims that as a highly developed society, average citizens in the U.S. have a number of values that they cherish as distinctly American. Wattenberg isn't talking about right-wing cultural values, rather he means social values like responsibility and community, and the fact that Americans in general don't believe that an individual or group should ever be allowed to "get something

for nothing." I don't know that I necessarily agree with Wattenberg on much; however, I do agree that each community, by definition, does hold certain identifiable values on which it places a great deal of emphasis. With regard to the college's mission, it appears on its face that Bates endorses "a deep moral awareness, a sympathetic understanding of others, social and civic responsibility, and a high sense of integrity." Lamentably, it has become abundantly clear that in an effort by the Academy to respect and over-tolerate each individual's supremacy over one's own work and practices, Bates' utopian community of egalitarianism has been rendered completely ineffective, in terms of its ability to bring people together, by appealing to the supposed communal values fostered by the mission of the college.

For example, the most blatant collective forfeiture of student civic responsibility and general proclamation of student apathy was one I heard being

Continued on Page 13

New grading option would improve EPC proposal

by David Lieber

I am convinced that despite the intense efforts of students opposed to the proposed general education requirements, most, if not all of the controversial provisions will ultimately be adopted by the faculty. As a firm believer in both practical and principled politics, I believe that students ought to insist on alternative mechanisms that simply foster the principles behind the proposed requirements in a better way.

A pass/fail option would

constitute a policy by which the EPC could encourage, rather than force, students to expand their scope of study. Members of the EPC assert that the proposed requirements endeavor to provide students with a vast array of "skills" that (I presume) no Bates graduate should be without. Establishing a system that fosters the acquisition of these necessary skills while assuaging the legitimate concerns of students ought to be a profound concern for the EPC. Indeed, when the idea of a pass/fail option arose in an open forum last week, not one voice of

dissent could be heard. The consensus that emerged around this issue suggests that the

a \$120,000 education ought to promote ... the acquisition of "skills" rather than glorify the first six letters of the alphabet

question which should be asked is not if, but how such an option

should be implemented within the framework of the proposed requirements.

"Alas," a faculty member might exclaim, "a pass/fail option would turn my classes into a perpetual Newman day—students could simply blow off my class." The idea of a pass/fail option, however, is not a license for such activity. The following three safeguards should allay any concerns that students will "blow off" the pass/fail option:

1) The threshold for "pass" would be consistent with the faculty's

standard of adequate work; students that did not meet that threshold (what normally might be a C- or a C) would fail the class. 2) Faculty would not know which students opt for traditional evaluation and which students choose to utilize the Pass/Fail option until final determinations were made. The Registrar could send a list to faculty members subsequent to the final exam period. Thus, every student would be evaluated by the same standard throughout the semester.

Continued on Page 15

Campus community should be thankful for activism

by Deborah L. Jones

In the hustle and bustle of everything that's going on as we near the mid-semester point, I was feeling absolutely overwhelmed—as are many of my classmates and peers. Frustrated and overloaded with work, and yet trying to make sure I was participating in, or at the very least keeping myself abreast of, the very latest in what's going on around here on campus, I've been wrapped up in expressing and listening—my head spinning with all sorts of points of view. But the most wonderful thing happened during my regular Monday night meeting schedule: it snowed. The fat little flakes tickled my nose and the ice already covering the ground was covered with a fluffy white slippery coat of this wonderful stuff. Everything from Chase Hall all the way over to Parker Hall looked beautiful. The first thought that went through my head was, "I love this, THIS is why I came to Bates."

The exhilaration rushing through my body and soul as a result of this precipitation phenomenon produced yet an

even better thought... how silly it was that the occasional opportunity of being covered by new snow was the only reason that I was subjecting myself (think second-semester senior jargon) to this challenging experience. But

Everyone that made the effort to be in the Alumni Gym at 10 am wanted to be there... the way I see it the gym was half-full, and despite the cries of apathy that surfaced, we aren't all pessimists

wait, this wasn't it at all. I began thinking of all the other things that made me feel as I do at Bates. Just briefly jotting down the highlights of the past week made me realize that I probably could go on and on, to the tune of four years worth of

shining moments, but I won't. In the events of this past week, there are enough to keep me going, and to keep me, and hopefully all of you, involved.

At the EPC open forum the other evening, I was amazed at the patience and dedication of the members of the EPC who listened to the same frustrated expressions over and over, and still came up with answers, writing down the ideas generated from the session to be kept in mind as the EPC moves along with their plans. I was psyched to see all those students who showed up to air their concerns about the proposal—and I, personally, heard many well thought out and wonderful suggestions. Of course the systems of committees aren't perfect, as has been mentioned, but there's the RA working on that, in addition to forging their way through new legislation and cooperation with the administration (need the Open Flame Ban be mentioned again).

As for the Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration—dedicated members of the Bates community did a great job putting together the events; I was proud, as a Bates student, to be there—and I wasn't

alone. Everyone that made the effort to be in the Alumni Gym at 10 am wanted to be there—and they delighted in a great speaker and some good music. The way I see it, the gym was half-full and despite the cries of apathy that surfaced, we aren't all pessimists.

Although the happy rush of pride gets lost as we get stressed out and frustrated—the reason we are still here must be based upon something. As you all are out there, arguing your stances with committees, making your voices heard, expressing yourselves and listening to others express themselves—being enraged or agreeing, think for a moment about what it is that not only allows you to do all this, but what compels you to. Hopefully, it is the same gratitude that we all sometimes feel, but are slow to express. Shout it out—make it heard, and make those who are working with us in this whole experience feel appreciated. No one likes to be the subject of criticism all the time—constructive criticism is great, but praise for a job well done is even better. No place is perfect, but a place that allows everyone to work together towards a communal improvement is damn close.

Level of apathy is pathetic

Continued from Page 12

promulgated far in wide all over campus during the past week. It went something like, "I don't care about those new proposed general education requirements; they are not going to affect me anyway." So much for moral awareness and social concern for others. Imagine if those who came before us at Bates had as much low regard for the character and the future strength of the college. Imagine if all the generous donors to the recent President's Capital Campaign had the same selfish attitude. "Ah, they don't need a new social science building, student center, or upgraded facilities anyway." "I don't owe that place anything, what did it ever do for me?" I think I have a pretty good idea. Why don't we stop apologizing for lack of student civic participation in college policy and just start calling student apathy by what it really is around here: morally reprehensible behavior, blatant selfishness, and most devastatingly, wholly antithetical to the mission of the college.

Ah, but who really cares anyway? I don't have time for any of this open forum stuff. Anybody up for another game of NHL '97?

Make yourself heard.
Voice your opinions on EPC in *The Student*

Thermometers, bleach, and open flames

by Alan Wright

For every age, there is a rite of passage of some sort, and some are more dramatic than others. Getting your license, or becoming eligible to vote are climactic, but adolescence is made up of the smaller, less dramatic steps toward adulthood. I was younger once, we all were once I suppose, even yesterday. I think the year was 1984, when I took a particularly memorable, if abortive step toward manhood. I was somewhat ill, I don't remember with what, but I did manage to stay home from school that day so I probably didn't feel too bad. When one is sick, one needs to have one's temperature taken, and there are two ways to do so (there was none of this ear business when I was a child.) These are delicate matters, but one way is far more pleasant than the other. I thought I was old enough to have it one way, but over my cries of protestation, I got it the other. This brings me to the

subject of the open flame ban. Why I connect this particular issue with this particular childhood memory is, at this time unclear to me, but such is the nature of the human mind.

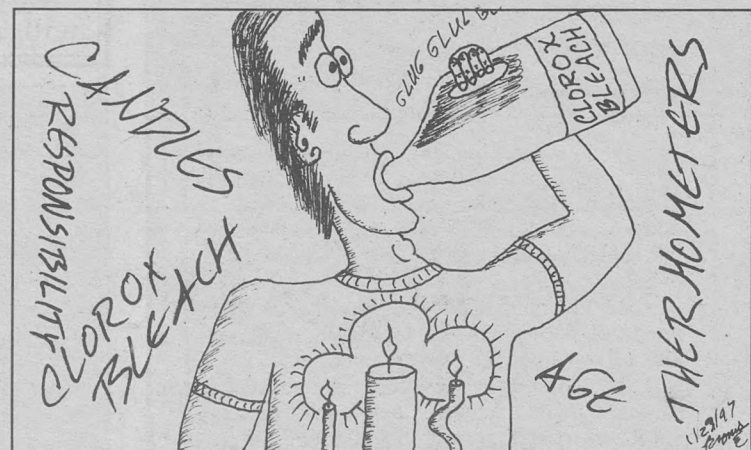
We all know that the improper use of a candle, a thermometer, or a gallon of Clorox bleach can certainly result in unpleasant consequences

The open flame ban is a matter of record. The ban is going in, whether you like it or not, and as the cries of protest from the student body would seem to indicate a large part of you do not. If college is to be the transition to adulthood,

this appears to be a step in the wrong direction. Much has been written about the open flame ban, and perhaps the arguments have become as tired as they are true. We all know that the improper use of a candle, a thermometer, or a gallon of Clorox bleach can certainly result in unpleasant consequences.

In the case of the Clorox, the key would appear to be reading the label and learning that it is just plain bad to drink the stuff. It's not all that different with a candle. One shouldn't place it under drapes, or leave it burning unattended. Clorox is sold at a number of stores, including Wal-Mart (which also makes great cotton candy by the way). I have never sat down and had a couple of shots of Clorox, nor have I ever burned a candle at Bates College.

My parents used to hide the bleach, and other chemicals with which I might harm myself, outside of my reach. This was undoubtedly a good idea, and they were only interested in ensuring



Matt "Brominator" Bromley graphic

my safety. Yet at this point in my life, they feel comfortable allowing me to handle this potentially lethal substance. I imagine that they feel I am old enough to know the risks associated with the misuse of this product, and that because I am cognizant of these risks, I will use it properly. It would appear that with the open flame ban the college is also only seeking to insure the safety of its students and

buildings. It is understandable that the college places a premium on insuring the safety of the community.

Whatever the intent of the drafters, any policy that reduces the risk of a fire in a campus residence, isn't all bad. I simply feel that a policy that educates students on the proper use of

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THE
BATES STUDENT

Established in 1873

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Policy

The Bates Student is published weekly by students of Bates College when the College is in session. Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Board. Views expressed in individual columns and features are solely those of the author.

The opinion pages of the *Student* are intended as an open forum for the Bates community, and we invite all who are interested to contribute. Letters to the Editor must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the Sunday before publication. All letters must be signed, though in special circumstances the newspaper may be willing to withhold names upon request. Letters may be delivered in person to Room 224, Chase Hall, and should be either laser-printed and single-spaced or saved on a 3.5" computer disk in Macintosh WordPerfect format; or sent via e-mail to awright@abacus.bates.edu. *The Bates Student* reserves the right not to print letters and to edit letters for length and clarity.

Postal correspondence can be addressed to: *The Bates Student*, 309 Bates College, Lewiston, ME 04240, or telephone (207) 795-7494. Subscription rates are \$22 for two semesters or \$14 for one semester. Checks should be made payable to *The Bates Student*.

Staff Editorial

The world outside our door

Over the past few years, if you've attended any of the International Club meetings, you'd notice that every year, more and more students, of every nationality, including to some people's surprise American, have been participating in greater numbers.

For years, International cultures have been a constant presence at Bates yet have seldom been in the forefront of campus consciousness. This weekend's International festival allows many previously unrecognized facets of Bates life to be recognized.

First and foremost among these realizations, should be that the American viewpoint—which most of us, by virtue of our status as Americans share—is just one of many. It is different from that of someone from Greece or Germany or Japan.

Most of the differences are, not surprisingly, cultural ones. From music to literature to food, international students at Bates bring with them a variety of traditions and pastimes which are unfamiliar to most of the students at this institution, simply because they have not never been immersed in foreign cultures.

And though it is fairly easy to dismiss these things as insignificant and unimportant, they are not. Rather, they are what enriches and expands life in countless ways. Attending one of the events scheduled for the international weekend, such as a dance workshop or the international fair, at which countless countries will be represented through displays of

memorabilia and personal effects, is the first step toward expanding the knowledge and appreciation of non-American cultures which at times seems to be sorely lacking within the Bates community.

It will always be easier to remain ignorant of the world that lies beyond our country, than to initiate the process through which understanding can be obtained. But for those willing to take the first step, the potential rewards are great. So instead of being intimidated by the thought of all this, take that first step. Chances are, you'll find that your fellow Bates students who have come here to study, many of them overcoming intimidating language and cultural barriers in the process, will be more than happy to share their own unique cultures with you.

Even as this weekend prompts us to look beyond the Bubble and the United States, the campus itself comes together. Campus organizations, individual students, faculty, and staff, and the administration volunteered their time and resources to make this weekend a success. It is an unprecedented feat, bringing together not only members of the Bates community, but also organizations from Bowdoin and Colby. In fact, the reach of this festival moves beyond Maine: the International Club has coordinated with many foreign consulates. *The Student* urges you to make the most of the unique opportunities presented you this weekend.

A Bromley saved is still a Bromley

"I know" --H. S.

Write for the *Student*

"Thank you sirs, may I have another" --J. M.

"Silly Managing Editor, Trix are for freshmen"--Srs. '97

Write for the *Student*

Hell hath no fury like a Bromley scorned

Pass fail

Continued from Page 12

3) The pass/fail option would be limited to 2-4 classes, provisionally, in order to determine its efficacy.

The only problems I anticipate from such a policy are how graduate institutions would interpret the decisions of students who choose to invoke this option. The registrar, Meredith Braz, ought to be consulted to ensure that students who exercise this option are not compromising their standing with respect to graduate schools, and to ensure that other logistical problems associated with this policy are tackled.

There is no reason why a pass/fail option can not be implemented in the context of the proposed general education requirements; the policy itself advances the rationale behind the general education requirements by conveying that a \$120,000 education ought to promote (for example) the acquisition of "skills" rather than glorify the first six letters of the alphabet.

Thermometers and the open flame

Continued from Page 12

candles would be more consistent with the fact that most students are legally adults.

I suppose the point is that when used properly, not much gets your whites whiter than Clorox bleach. Some would argue that candles, whether burning or in a purely decorative function, establish an ambiance that you just can't get from a bottle of bleach sitting on the windowsill. Everything has its place in the great order of things, including thermometers (which have two places but I'm not here to confuse matters). Just about everything has its use too, and when misused just about everything can be harmful. Much like a thermometer, you just have to know where to place a candle (ideally far from flammable objects) because like a thermometer, misplacing a candle can be most unpleasant.

The RA is "pathetic!"

It may be time to call the ACLU

To the Editors:

We at the Bates Student realize when we have a good thing. Such is the case with the title of last week's article "Bates takes the 'a' out of apathetic" by Jeremy Root. It was magic.

The new RA administration also realized this fact as they blatantly stole our headline, incorporating the "a" pathetic headline in their new poster slogans. Perhaps the RA doesn't realize the fact that as the cover says, "Copyright 1997 The Bates Student, Lewiston, Maine." copyright means we own all contents of the paper, including all intellectual rights.

We know how boring most RA signs are, such as the sign posted concurrently with "our" sign, "feeling a little bit under the thumb? Care?" Our pleasure at seeing a decent sign, however, was mitigated by the realization that its intellectual content was stolen from the *Student*. Thus, while we understand that the RA felt

inclined to break federal copyright legislation in this manner to improve the quality of their signs, we cannot excuse it. As if those multibillion dollar, multibillion color, multi-obnoxious anti-EPC propaganda fliers weren't enough.

There comes an time in every man's (or woman's) life when he (or she) realizes that it is time to draw the line. The time has come. The time is now. "Marvin K. Mooney will you please go now." (Dr. Seuss in *Green Eggs and Ham*) "If there is an original thought out there, I could use it, right now." Bob Dylan said that.

We are distressed that the recent fiascos on capitol hill penetrated the infamous Bates bubble

We are sick and tired of you \$200,000 of appropriation a year political types feeling that you are above the law. We hereby demand an Independent Counsel to investigate the matter.

Dire times such as this call for dire action. As a result, the *Student* lawyers will soon be contacting the R.A. in order to resolve this matter. We seek compensation in the amount of \$50,000 (this covers our debt, our "conference" in Honolulu, and our snazzy new teal bowling shirts) as well as a public flogging in the tree in front of Commons. See your ass is court.

The Editorial Board
The Bates Student
(Plaintiffs)

Letters to the Editor

Apology for EPC open forum signs

To the Editor,

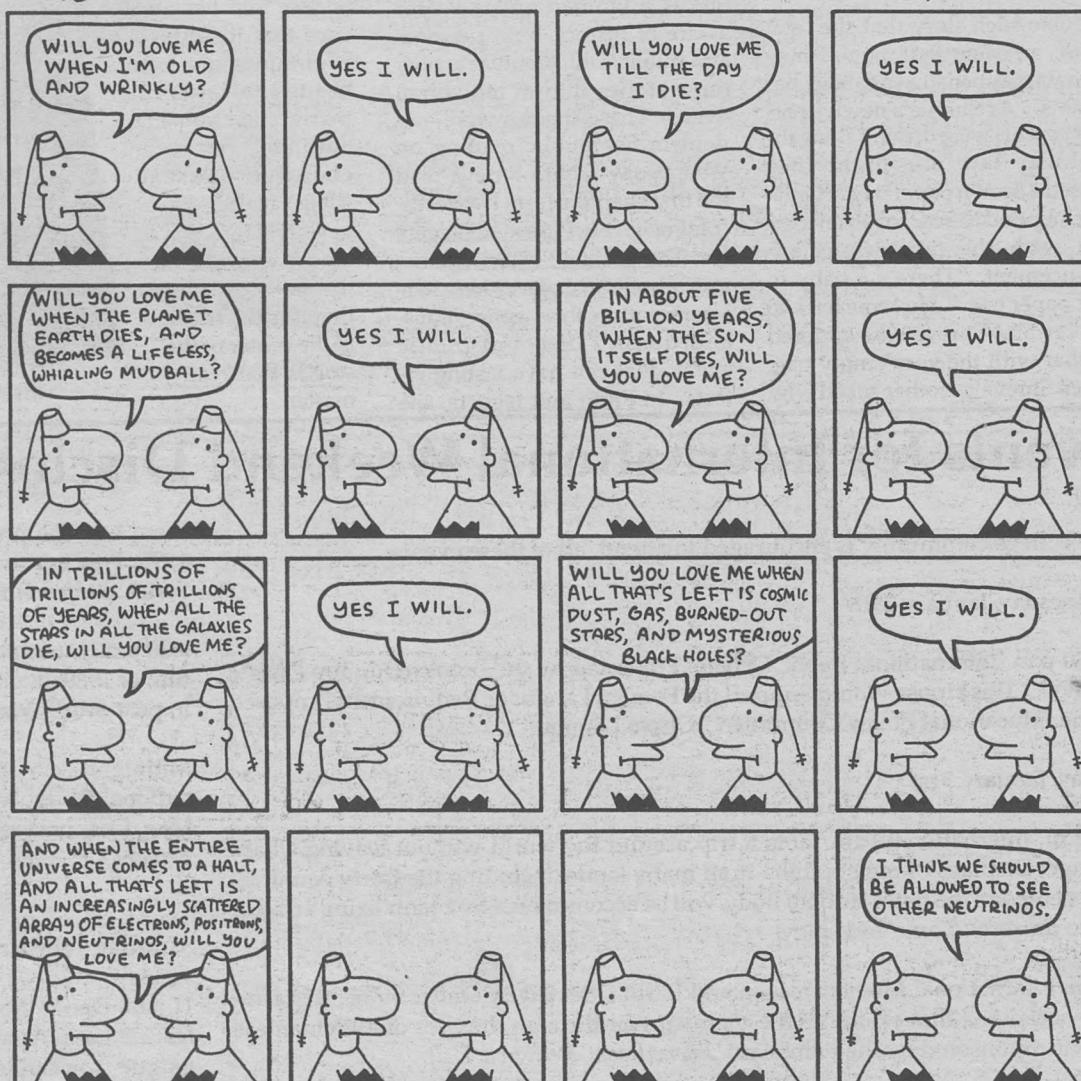
In response to Ms. Dina Hanna's Jan. 24 letter, I would like to take this opportunity to personally apologize for the culturally insensitive language that appeared on a recent flyer urging students to attend two EPC Open Forums. While I had not willingly intended to do so, I clearly engaged in the propagation of a stereotype that has no place on this campus nor in the greater public dialogue. As someone who has seriously studied the Middle East here at Bates, I should know better than the average American that the Western media portrayal of citizens of the Arab World, or that of Arab-Americans, is highly unfounded and completely unacceptable. In my haste to find a provocative way to challenge the overabundance of student apathy here at Bates, I stepped overboard without proper reflection.

My deepest sincere apologies to the campus community,

Mike Ferrari '98

The Student
would like to
thank all
those who
made this
issue
possible.
"Buffalo Bob"
from
Domino's
Pizza and, as
always,
Christopher
"Solid Gold"
Lau

LIFE IN HELL



"What it is, What it shall be,
What it was....

Around Campus

January 31, 1997

Woodrow Wilson Fellow A Week-Long Success

By Alice Reagan

Stories, both personal and public, were the theme of Susan Richard Shreve's Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow residency this past week. She began her public lecture on Monday night with a question for the audience, "What stories have guided your life?" Shreve went on to talk about the relevancy of stories and events from childhood. The factualness of stories is irrelevant for Shreve; what counts is the elemental truth at the heart of the narrative. Shreve sees stories as the one unifying element, that which makes sense and gives order to the randomness of life.

One such story that she told, about an event that may or may not have happened, was about her parents. As Shreve's newly-married parents were driving along the highway late one night they passed a brown paper bag. Her father stopped the car to retrieve the bag with the mysterious announcement, "There's a baby in that paper bag." He came back to the car and Shreve's bewildered mother with the very empty bag. When Shreve's mother asked why

in the world her husband thought there might have been a baby in the paper bag, he replied, "Because there might have been."

Shreve came to Bates from George Mason University, where she is a professor of English literature. She is also an editor, an essayist, a novelist, a children's book writer, and a mother of four. She spent her week at Bates in English and political science classes, not to mention daily forays into Commons and the Davis Fitness Center. Shreve also held office hours for interested students, and was available for informal chats.

She is a woman and a writer aware of history, both personal and public, and attentive to how these stories inform individual lives. These themes were evident in her public reading on Wednesday night. Shreve read the first chapters from two forthcoming novels, *Plum* and *Jaggers* and *The Visiting Physician*. Historically, Shreve places her characters within their generations, and doesn't discount public events that can have lasting effects. In *Plum* and *Jaggers*, she

is careful to describe what the year 1974 means to those who lived through it: Nixon resigning, Patty Hearst, the death of Karen Silkwood, and the war in Vietnam.

On the personal level, both stories begin with children and tragedy. In *Plum*, the four McWilliams children suffer the loss of their parents in a train accident while traveling in Europe; in *The Visiting Physician* a mysterious virus infects the children of a small, isolated middle-west town. Shreve told her audience that these bleak beginnings are both headed towards cathartic and cleansing endings. Shreve's choice of unusual subject matters have nevertheless always reached a wide audience, proving that it is the truths at the center of the stories that really matter.



Shreve tells her stories at Bates

Events for International Weekend Disclosed

The college community is encouraged to attend all of these events:

Wednesday, January 29th

4-5:30 p.m. International Public Debate. Presented by the Brooks Quimby Debate Council: "This House Would Support the Foreign Language Requirement Proposed by the Educational Policy Committee." Chase Lounge.

Friday, January 31st

5-8 p.m. International Fair. Table a trip around the world without leaving Chase Lounge! Displays of memorabilia from many lands, including the thirty countries represented in the Bates student body, will be accompanied by a tantalizing array of exotic desserts. Come and enjoy.

7 p.m. International Movie: Heaven and Earth Directed by Oliver Stone, this critically-acclaimed film examines the Vietnam War through the eyes of a Vietnamese woman. Sponsored by the Filmboard. Filene Room, Pettigrew Hall.

9-11 p.m. International Concert Rumbafrica The Boston-based Zairian rumba kings will entrance you with the sweet vocal harmonies and dance rhythms that helped

them win the prestigious Boston Music Award for outstanding World Music Act in 1995. Free admission. Sponsored by the Chase Hall Committee and the Village Club Series. Benjamin E. Mays Center.

9:30 p.m. International Movie: Cinema Paradiso The Academy Award-winning foreign film of 1989, it tells the poignant story of a poor boy's fascination with motion pictures in post-World War II Sicily. Filene Room, Pettigrew Hall.

Midnight-2 a.m. International Toons Party. Enjoy non-alcoholic cocktails with an international flavor, while dancing to the irresistible beats of world music provided by DJ Meg. Cosponsored by Student Health Link. Snacks will be provided. Free admission. Benjamin E. Mays Center.

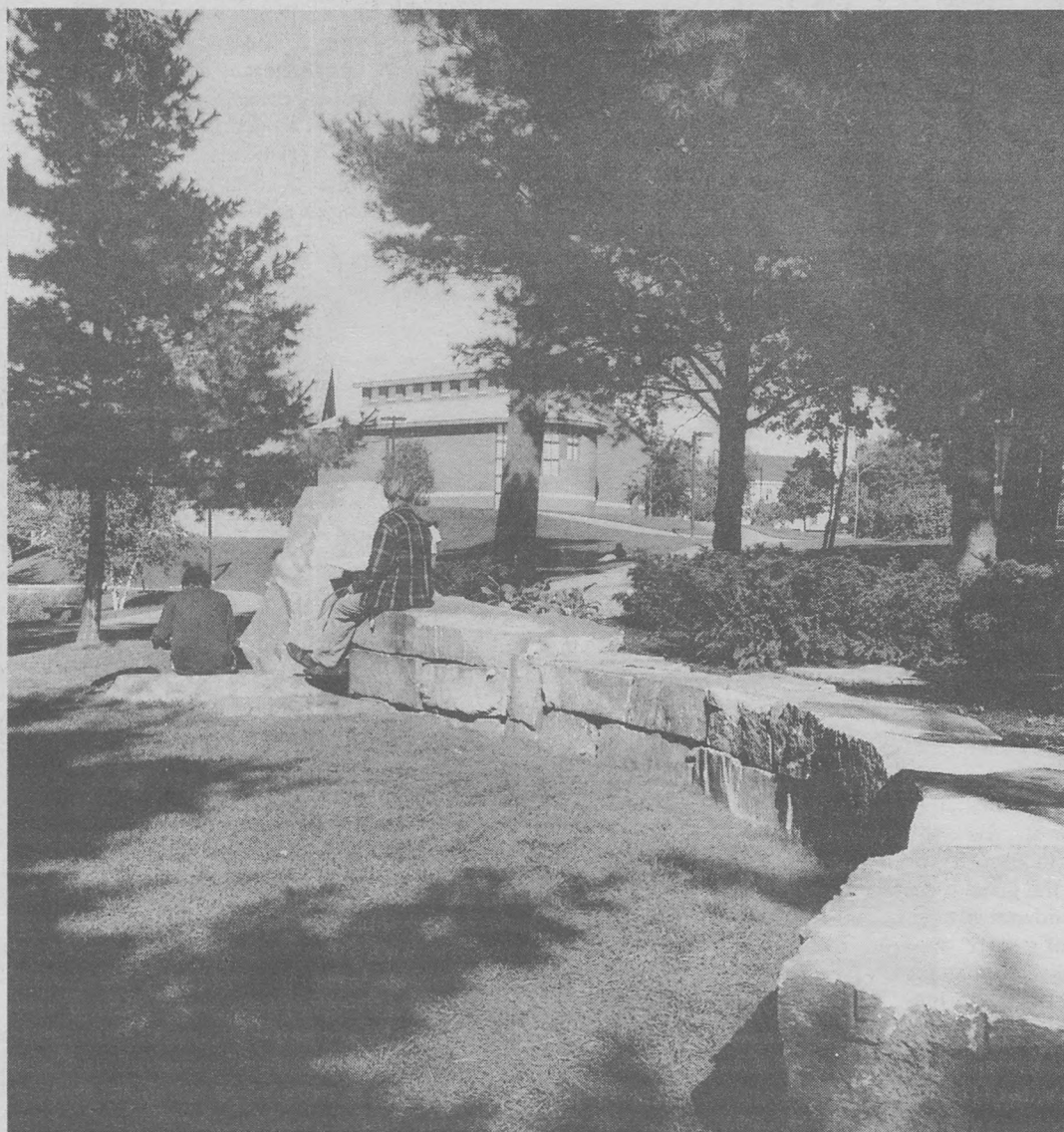
Saturday, February 1st

11 a.m. Dance Workshop. Presented by the Bates Ballroom Society, the workshop will feature Latin American dances, including the cha-cha, salsa, rumba, samba, and merengue. You can learn these steps! Multipurpose Room, Merrill Gymnasium.

12:30 p.m. Study Abroad Presentation. Come listen, and learn from the experiences of Bates students who have studied abroad in countries including Great Britain, Australia,

"Remembering Phil Otis, '95

by Josiah Ahlgren



Amanda Hinnant photo.

It's a beautiful day today. The sun is shining down on yesterday's still clean snow, but it is not warm enough to rob the snow of its crunch. Barely visible underneath this snow, nestled in amongst the pine trees between George Carrol Smith Hall and Lake Andrews, lies a memorial to Phil Otis '95.

The location and design of the memorial are a fitting remembrance of a student who was fundamentally concerned with the environment and the impact which we have upon it. The memorial designers utilized the natural grade of the small incline in the creation of a small amphitheater-like place perfect for reflection and meditation.

At this time of year, it is perhaps unwise to reflect and meditate too long at any one place out of doors, but during this past fall many members of the Bates Community took advantage of this new place on the Bates campus. Peter Corcoran's Environmental Education class met in the space enclosed by the memorial on more than one occasion this fall. This is particularly appropriate since Corcoran was Otis' Environmental Studies advisor and since Environmental Education was a class in which Otis' great love for the natural world allowed him to shine. Corey Brown, a student in this Fall's Environmental Education class, said that not only was the memorial a nice place to have class because of its shape and location, but also that it is one of the nicest places on campus to sit and read or think.

The memorial is more than just a nice place to have class. According to Peter Corcoran, Phil's presence can be strongly felt at the memorial. Corcoran can remember Phil sitting on a similar piece of ground during his own Environmental Education days. He can "still see Phil sitting there with a serious look on his face." Otis did a lot of deep reflection about the environment and its association with spirituality during his Bates career. Now, in his memory, we have a perfect place to carry on this tradition.

lia, China, Japan, Chile, Mexico, Russia, and more. An informal question and answer session will follow. Refreshments provided. *Skelton Lounge, Chase Hall.*

3 p.m. Keynote Address: Ved Mehta A noted novelist, short story writer, and journalist, Ved Mehta was born in India and lost his sight when he was four years old. Educated at Harvard and Oxford University, Mehta has been a staff writer and contributor to the New Yorker since 1969. He is the author of twenty books including *Strange Shadows of a New World* and *Mahatma Gandhi and His Apostles*, and has received awards and honors including a MacArthur Prize Fellowship. Mehta currently holds the Rosenkranz Chair in Writing at Yale University. *Chase Lounge.*

6 p.m. Dance Workshop. Presented by the Bates Ballroom Society, the workshop will feature European-style dances. You can learn these steps too! *Chase Lounge.*

7 p.m. International Movie: Cinema Paradiso *Filene Room, Pettigrew Hall.*

8 p.m. International Coffee House and Talent Show. Co-sponsored by the Women of Color. Allow yourself to be entertained by the performances of fellow Batesies. *Chase Lounge.*

9:30 p.m. international Movie: Heaven and Earth *Filene Room, Pettigrew Hall.*

* Be sure to tune in to WRBC 91.5 FM for international music during the festival.

The official Around Campus Section Bob Dylan Quote of the Week:

"When you're lost in the rain in Juarez and it's Easter time too, and your gravity fails and negativity wont pull you through, don't put on any airs when you're down on Rue Morgue Avenue, there's some hungry women there and they'd really make a mess out of you."

-Bob Dylan

Ask Fifi.™

A new weekly column by
Fifi Shalom

Dear Fifi,

Help! I really like this boy,
but he doesn't like people. How do
I approach him?

Sincerely,

Regrettably Human '97

Dear Human,

If it's your humanity that offends him, you must conceal it... at first. Dress yourself up like a small, comfy sofa, and add a tag reading "For You." Find your way into his room, and how can he turn you away? He sits down in you immediately, and falls in love with your tastefully patterned upholstery. Bingo! This is where we really get him.

After a few days, remove one of the dust covers to reveal your arm. He may be puzzled at first, but his sitting enjoyment should soon resume. The next day, poke a foot out from under your dust ruffle. The idea, ma'am, is for you to gradually transform yourself from a sofa back into a person. Continue to remove your couch-costume piece by piece (you are clothed underneath, of course; nothing screams "humanity!!" more loudly than a naked body), and a few days later, his new couch is *you*!

You will have forced him to recognize that his dislike for people is arbitrary. When the distinction between the object of his hatred (you) and the object of his love (the sofa) is sufficiently blurred, his paradigms will shatter... the chambers of his heart will open up like the wings of a butterfly, and carry the two of you smilingly into the sweet blue cloudless sky, over the rainbow and beyond.

Dear Fifi,

I guess I'd call myself your average cowgirl. But since arriving in this town many (4) years ago, I've felt trapped in my persona, realizing that maybe I'm not a true cowgirl at heart; that Commons chili just makes me fart. To put it bluntly, I've been hoping to lasso a raver in Hedge. I'm at mah wit's end—I may jump off a ledge! What to do? Ditch my spurs for a pair of hot pants in Magenta? I'm feelin' dog-tired and dirty and plum fed up with all the L.L. Bean-ers. All I want is some beans and weiners. Yet... my heart beats for him like a hundred head o' cattle. Tell me O Fifi—should I stay true to my roots and my snakeskin boots, or let myself loose on the rave caboose?

Signed,

Mustang Molly

P.S. I'm drunk.

Mustang Molly,

O cowgirl, your thoughts must be swirling like dust in the wind... close your eyes until the dust settles and the moonshine has passed through you. Although you have probably internalized the toxic aphorism, "you can't have your cake and eat it too," this superstitious myth of anatomy must be rejected; cake, once eaten, does not disappear! It goes into your stomach, and your blood carries the little pieces of cake to all the parts of your body that are calling out for sweet and colorful nourishment, and to the parts that are celebrating special days of their own (happy birthday, by the way, to my left femur!).

The point is, Molly, that when you eat that cake, it becomes you. You *can* have it both ways. Eat the cake = Wear the hotpants! Why be an "average" cowgirl when you could be a cowgirl in magenta? If your sights are set on this raver, woo him not with L.L. fleece and wool... it's just not you. Use your lasso, use your spurs, and feast on Tom's Brand™ Beans and Wieners, conveniently available in the Hedge vending machine. And who says cattle can't ride the rave caboose? A hundred head is only five times twenty, so board that vehicle with cows aplenty, snakeskin booties and Hedge cuties.

Let Fifi wrestle with your dusty dilemmas in her weekly column! Next Week: Confused '97: I'm a senior. When should I start writing my thesis? Send questions c/o Fifi to jweiers@bates.edu, the Bates Student at Box 309, or bring to 224 Chase Hall.

Muskie's back.... and he's ringin' a bell

(And we're not whistlin' dixie either)

channeled by an unknown divinity through a
possessed Jeremy Brenningstall

It had been not too long since darkness had been brooding over the days, and I had not had as much of an opportunity to schematize the matter as I would have liked, but I knew that something was wrong when the birds began to return and it was not yet even summer, and I thought about this briefly, but then got distracted. That happens to me sometimes, not intentionally, and I suppose this happens to some of you sometimes too.

We have been getting the mail, as usual, and lots of good stuff, too, as usual. The "Word" has been offered to us for free, and that is fortunate. When the Word gets expensive, then everything else does too, and inflation just does hell to the pamphleteer economy. The Word wants us to know, "Do you want the good news or the bad news first? Well, let's start with the bad news. We are all sinners."

Well actually, I've decided that I don't really care what the Word has to say. Not that I have anything against sinners, I just feel uncomfortable when they tell me to believe them.

This would be trouble for Josiah, a devout believer who really wants an article for this section, if not for the fact that we have a late-breaking story of which it is imperative to write about, and not just hypothetically, either. No, we're not talking about dinner maxims, though when dinner is Tom Turkey you may want to maximize on touch of jelly, or so says a resident aspiring haircutter who used to own a restaurant, but sold it when a post-grunge agricultural rock group moved upstairs, and began to experiment with genetic engineering. What we're talking about is artistic expression. So perhaps we should cut the chase, trim the beard and the eyebrows, and just get to the story.

Ordinarily, things at Bates are pretty routine. Aside from the occasional monkey head and naked man (listed in the security report as overcooked dish and dislocated apparel respectively), it is rare that one finds anything necessary to bring in the looseleaf notebook for, especially when it's so much easier to make up quotes. So

you could imagine my suspicion when reports began circulating that a painting in the archives was looking at people a little funny. That's the way things are here at Bates. One glance or two, and everyone's up in arms.

One would think that a portrait would have as much right to look around as anyone else. Nevertheless, I can understand the discomfort of visiting speakers at the weight of painted eyes looking over their shoulders. If someone was staring at me, I would ask them to quit it till I'm done speaking too.

Good things rarely stay put for long, however, and sightings have been made of the same eyes, appearing without a body, in other areas of the campus as well. They're shy though, and disappear during blinking, so a definite identification has proved to be difficult, particularly when clouded by a fake mustache. The easiest way to identify them is by the stiff-footed gait that usually follows them. It goes one-two, one-two, but sometimes skips to one-one or two-two when it gets nervous. What are we talking about?

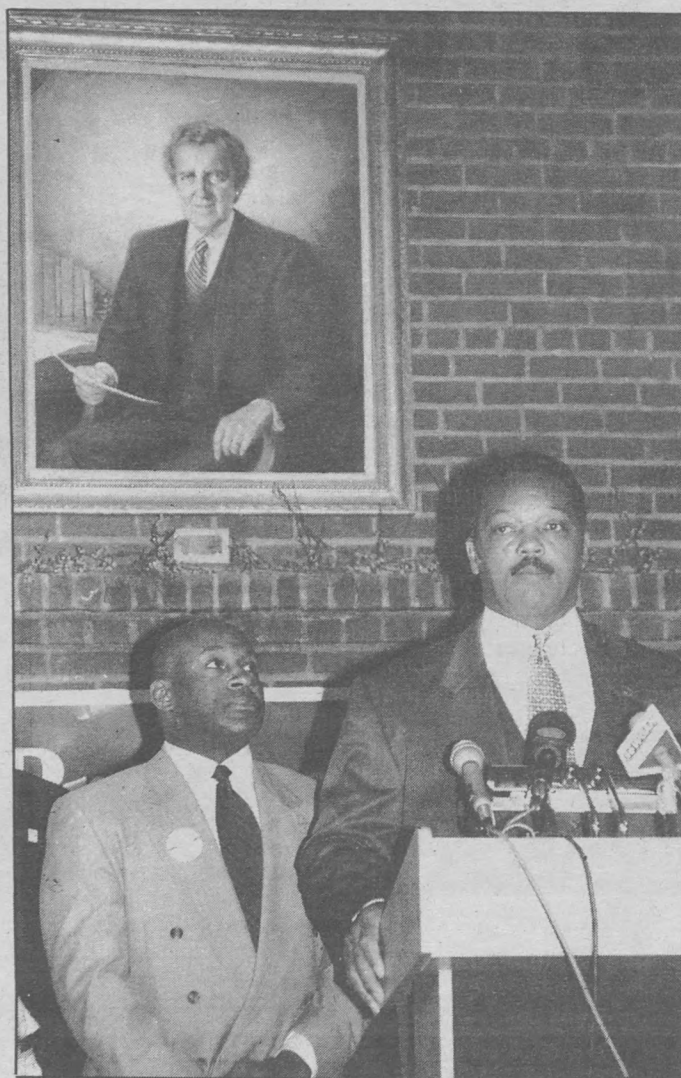
Ed is back, and he has been seen, so don't you fret none.

Fifi Shalom '97, noted student correspondent and advice columnist, described her traumatic experience this way: "Well the thing is, I was up here working, things were pretty quiet when no one else was here, and when other people were here it was loud, and around three a.m. it was just me, or so I thought."

She felt comfortable at first, but as soon as Solid Gold went on the air, that began to change. "It's just that the floor out there makes very distinctive noises when people are coming, you know what I mean?" Fifi said. "I just kept hearing like creak, creak, random foot steps. It's true. Why can't it be news! Why does it have to be Section Seven! I mean it was to the point that I didn't get up out of the chair to go look out in the hallway. I didn't want to see him. He walked around slowly; painfully slowly until five a.m. I can only imagine he was reading the R.A. message board. Pretty soon after that I went home. I don't think he followed me. I was

pretty scared. That's pretty much why I left."

Josiah Ahlgren '97, name changed to protect the innocent, said, "I don't believe in that fucking thing, and I wish people would shut up about that Muskie guy."



Big Brother is Watching you.

Well, let's start with the bad news. We are
all sinners.

The Arts

Friday, January 31, 1997

Veteran singer-songwriter to perform

by Jon Wyman

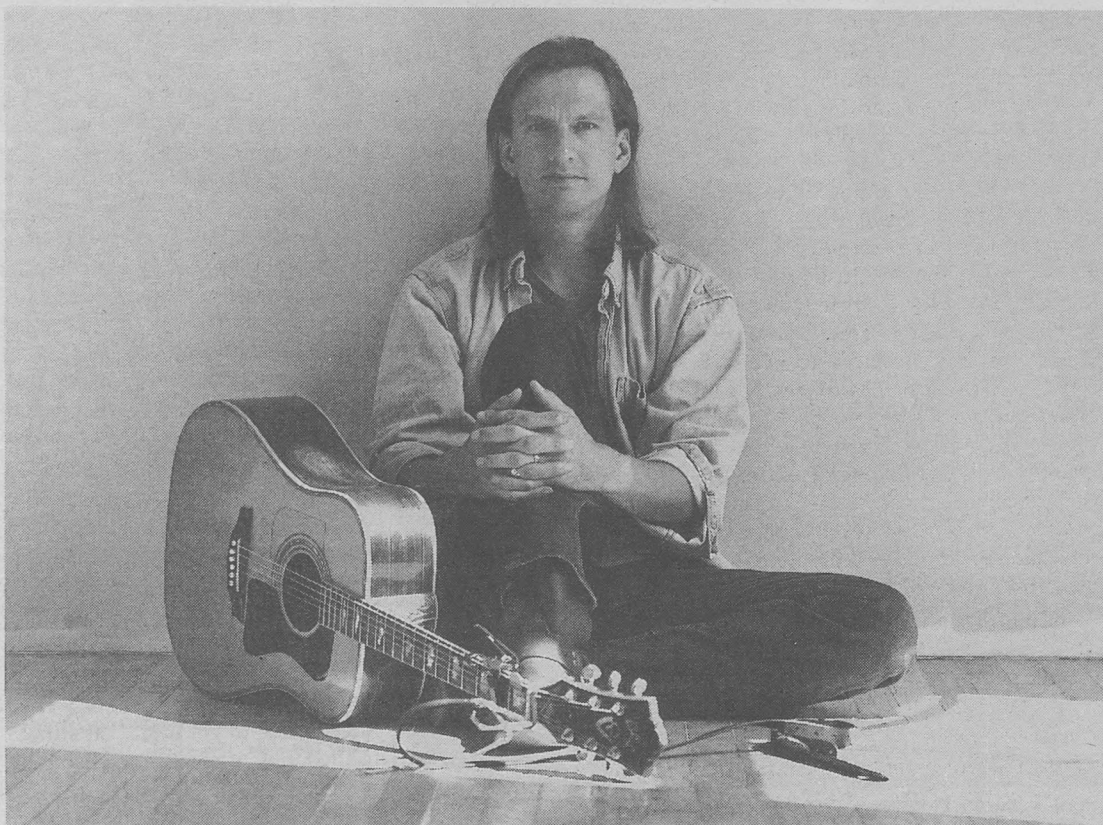
The name Ellis Paul has floated in and out of my life for the past five years or so. Maybe it began with hearing "Look at The Wind Blow," from his first CD *Say Something*, on a crappy little clock radio in high school (it still sounded great). Or maybe it's because the photo for the inside cover of his second CD, *Stories*, was shot only a few blocks from my first apartment, just down the street from the Park Street T-Stop in Boston. However nostalgic I like to be, though, it's hard not to notice Ellis these days. In addition to winning just about every prize and award there is for a performing songwriter, he has garnered an unusually large amount of respect from his peers. Not only does Ellis write melodically fantastic songs and sing them in a beautiful, slightly nasal tenor, but he is a storyteller in the truest sense of the word, painting vivid pictures of characters and situations, while leaving just enough open to the listeners' imaginations.

Knowing this, it comes as

little surprise that his new CD on Rounder Records, titled *A Carnival of Voices*, has met with both critical acclaim and national attention. Imagine my delight upon seeing the man who was once Boston's best kept secret on a "Highly Recommended" rack in a Berkeley, CA, record store a few weeks ago. It seems the one-time champion of the Boston Acoustic Underground competition is underground no more.

Oddly enough, I first met this folk artist in perhaps the most "plugged-in" way possible: via the Internet. We managed to keep up a sporadic correspondence through e-mail, which mostly consisted of me bugging him about guitar tunings or what brand of strings he used (typical guitar/folk-geek banter, I admit). Yet, even though I'm sure he gets asked these questions a hundred times a day, he always replied and shared a few of his secrets with me in the process. And when I asked him about doing an interview in anticipation of his February 6th concert

Continued on Page 20



Boston area folk singer-songwriter Ellis Paul will perform in the Ben Mays Center on February 6th.

Gregory Wostrel photo

International fair one of weekend's many highlights

by Josh Popichak

This year, for the first time in its twenty-year history, the Bates College International Club has mounted a large-scale effort that will encourage cross-cultural awareness throughout the Bates community. The first annual International Weekend, known as "Matsuri" (Japanese for "festival"), and the events scheduled for today and tomorrow that are a part of it, are attempting to bring attention to a variety of international-

related issues while generating an atmosphere that will be both educational and social.

"The aim of the festival," according to Ankur Sarin '98, President of the International Club, "is to bring to the college an awareness of the existence of cultures and lives that are varied and distinctly different from one another; to unite via appreciation of the diversity that makes the Bates experience such a rich one."

Noting that nearly one half of the International Club's stu-

dent membership is comprised of non-international students, Sarin discussed some of the motivation for the festival.

"In many ways, international students carry with them the responsibility of representing their countries—of acting as ambassadors, of sorts. It was this basic concept which first led us to the idea of an event such as the International Festival; an event which we feel is one whose time has come."

One of the cornerstones of this year's International Weekend will be an International Fair, to be held in Chase Lounge Friday afternoon from 5-8 p.m. The fair will be an opportunity for members of the International Club to showcase personal memorabilia, products, and related information on their respective countries in a public setting.

According to Miltiadis Vafiadis '97, vice-president of the International Club and coordinator of the fair, at least fifteen countries are set to be represented. Additional information on many of

them was obtained by contacting foreign embassies and consulates.

To facilitate the organization of the fair and enhance the experience of those who attend, Chase Lounge will be divided into four 'sections': Europe, The Ameri-

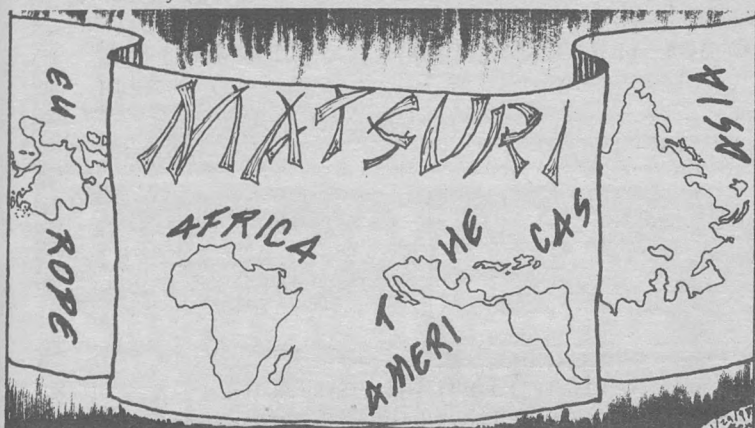
"The aim of the festival is to bring to the college an awareness of the existence of cultures and lives that are varied and distinctly different."

-Ankur Sarin '98

"The arrangement of the tables within these sections will not be purely geographic, but specific countries will be represented individually, in most cases," said Vafiadis, who noted that the items to be displayed by students vary considerably.

Tourist brochures and books, photographs, posters, flags, stamps, currency, music, and food are just some of the items which will be showcased, along with two computers with multimedia representations of foreign lands. In addition, some club members will be making candy to be sold, the proceeds of which will benefit the International Club. Bates Dining Services has also planned an international dessert fair, to be held in conjunction with the event in Chase Lounge.

"Promotion of cultural differences should not mean that we forget what binds us together," Sarin stressed in conclusion. "This is what I personally hope the International Fair and the festival as a whole will remind us of."



Two artists promise to double Bates' pleasure

Continued from Page 19

here at Bates with Martin Sexton, he was not only quick to oblige, but he invited me over to his house. What a guy.

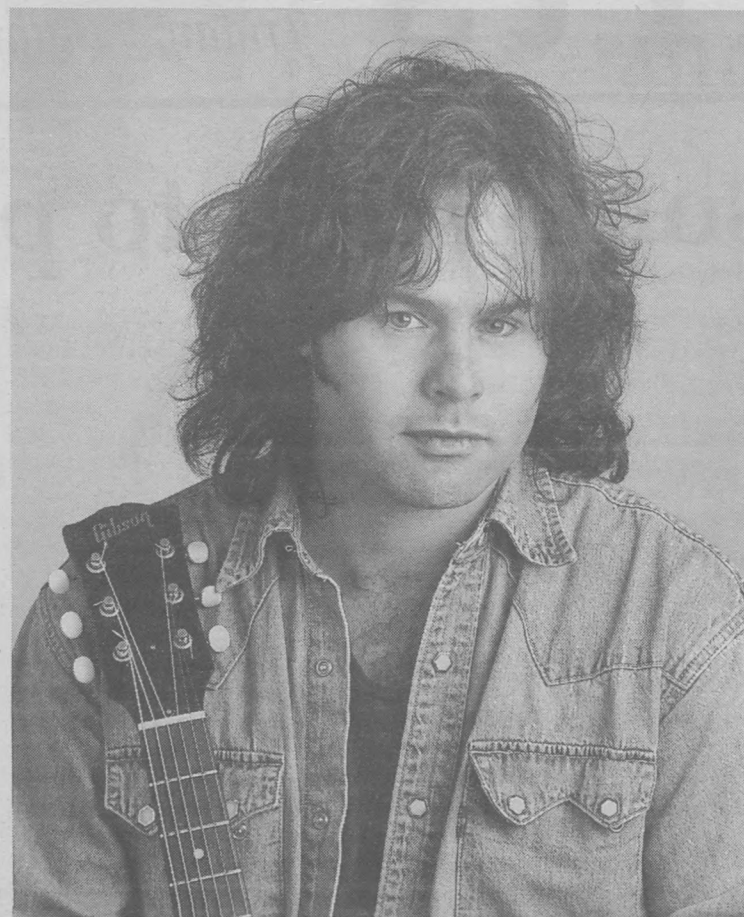
After we were settled and I had met his wife, Emily (whom he has been with since they were 14, and who plays a major role in the creative process: "She's prime editor ... she gets the first hear of everything"), I asked Ellis about how he got his start in the folk scene.

"I got out of college—I went to B.C.," he explained, "and started hanging around at open mics. I started doing the circuit of open mics, and there was this one at the Old Vienna Kaffeehaus (in Westboro, MA), which is sort of my mother club. I got to meet a lot of musicians who were pretty good...who were writing their own material. And I eventually got hired by these clubs to do openers, and I developed my own following from that."

He looks back on the early days of open mics as probably the most exciting time for him, with the thrill of first discovering music. He tells me the story of a typical night at the Old Vienna ten years ago, when he was just getting started.

"I'd go in there with all my friends and get a table and try to be cool—smoke cigarettes and drink coffee. We somehow tried to rule the joint. It was just a pretentious, fun time, trying to find yourself as an artist when you're not really an artist. You have plenty to bitch about when you do an open mic ... there are people who suck, and people who are just okay, and you're trying to get people's attention, and it's frustrating, but it's also kind of exciting."

Pretty soon, Ellis got the attention so many like him were seeking, and started to get gigs opening for the likes of Roger McGuinn ("I actually didn't know who he was at the time," he sheepishly admits), Shawn Colvin, and



Martin Sexton will be performing on Thursday, February 6th.

John Gorka. Despite these impressive names, he remains modest and soft-spoken about his rapid rise to success in the business. "[The club owners] grabbed me even though I was still really green...it wasn't that I was any better than anybody else. Something got me the gigs...I don't know what it was."

In addition to learning tricks of the trade from the acts he opened for, Ellis cites Woody Guthrie as having been a huge influence on his songwriting. He even sports a tattoo of Guthrie's name on his arm.

"I've been more influenced by the books written about him and by him than his music," he stated. "His life story and his willingness to travel and to work hard ... he ended up writing from a journalistic point of view, which is what I do. I write stories that are

real. I don't fictionalize, or write love songs to get a girl. It's that philosophy of recording what you know."

Like his mentor, Ellis keeps a journal, which he allowed me to peruse. The journal holds not only dated entries, but poems, lyrics, and sketches from the *Carnival* recording sessions. These verbal and visual snapshots from various points in Ellis' life are closely related to the concept behind his new album.

In a soft-spoken voice which barely registered on my tape recorder and hinted at his hesitancy toward revealing information about himself, Ellis discussed his new, autobiographical approach to songwriting.

"A lot of people wanted to start hearing from me more, although I didn't want to write about

me specifically. In *Carnival*, I am the guy in the song interacting with people, so the song is sort of about me, and sort of about them, but more about the relationship between us."

In the course of the interview, he also talked about how part of the *Carnival* concept came from his experiences travelling from town to town and meeting new people during his 200 show-per-year touring schedule. "As a project, it's probably a better-conceived, grand idea. I see albums as cohesive groupings of songs that somehow support one another and have themes that are related back and forth."

Assisting Ellis in transforming his concepts into reality has been a slew of extraordinarily talented musicians, ranging from folk staples like Patty Griffin, Jennifer Kimball, and Duke Levine, to Bill Dillon (who graced Sarah McLachlan's *Fumbling Towards Ecstasy*), to veteran Peter Gabriel band members Tony Levin and Jerry Marotta (who together produced Paul's latest album).

"I wrote nine of the songs on the album in the month of January, and we were recording by the end of the month, so it was all kind of crammed together. But the studio is cool because it's like cooking. You go in with a meatloaf recipe and come out with some sort of masterpiece. You get five different people who are going to play instruments on the song, and they change it completely from what your presentation is solo to the final presentation that appears on the record."

Ellis is already performing and breaking-in new songs for his next record, slated to begin production in April. The album promises to have a more stripped-down, guitar-and-vocal approach than some of his earlier efforts. "Before I was a little bit hesitant to have me be the focus because my guitar playing was suspect, but now I think I'm representing the parts on the guitar," he added, as he pulled out a beautiful new Santa Cruz acoustic

and demonstrated what he meant.

Striking the body of the instrument with the ball of his hand acting as a kick drum, slapping the low string to represent the snare, and all the while keeping a moving bass line and chord progression going, Ellis proved to me an instrumental versatility that is far from suspect. He proceeded to give me a quick mini-lesson, and then played a track from his new album.

Written about a friend faced with the dilemma of coming out to her parents, the song (aptly-titled "She Loves A Girl") is remarkable. Hearing his voice from four feet away made the intimacy of the story seem even more urgent, the intricacies of his vocal delivery even more outstanding. Altogether, the honesty in his writing, his singing, and his demeanor, make Ellis a performer unlike any other in the scene today.

Ellis Paul will be performing at 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 6th at the Ben Mays Center, opening for Martin Sexton, considered by many to be the other "big gun" currently dominating the Boston-area acoustic scene. Sexton plays a unique blend of folk, gospel, jazz, and blues, and possesses an unbelievable voice that goes from a low, secretive growl, to a soaring falsetto, to a chesty belt at the drop of a hat.

Unfortunately, due to his rigorous touring schedule, Sexton could not be reached for this interview. However, for those interested in a preview of his work, be sure to check out his record *Black Sheep* (on Eastern Front Records), or the *This is Boston, Not Austin* compilation (on Black Wolf Records, and featuring Ellis Paul as well).

Thanks to the performances that have been scheduled, February 6th promises to be an evening of unsurpassed storytelling and talent at Bates, with the Silo offering these two solo performers the intimacy that their songwriting was made for.

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Arts Calendar

Bates College

Friday, Jan. 31

Concert: Frank Glazer, lecturer in the department of music and artist-in-residence at Bates College, will perform the last three piano sonatas of Franz Schubert, in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. Olin Arts Center Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Noonday Concert Series: featuring Jeffrey Pelletier on flute and Mark Howard on harpsichord. The two will be performing works by Mozart. Olin Arts Center Concert Hall, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Recital: Franz Schubert's *Winterreise* will be performed by Sanford Sylvan on baritone and David Breitman on fortepiano. Olin Arts Center Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 6

Play: "Eaten Alive," written and performed by Mimi Wyche, will be performed in recognition of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Edmund S. Muskie Archives, 7 p.m.

State of Maine

Friday, Jan. 31

Play: "Shirley Valentine" will be performed at the Public Theatre Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Written by Willy Russell, "Shirley Valentine" explores a mid-life crisis of comic proportions. The Public Theatre is located at the corner of Lisbon and Maple Sts. in Lewiston. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$10 for students. For more information, call 782-3200.

Concert: the World of Music Series at the Oak Street Theatre presents Inanna, Maine's acclaimed women's percussion ensemble, specializing in African polyrhythms. The Oak Street Theatre is located at 92 Oak Street in Portland. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$6. For more information, call 775-5103.

Noted author to lecture on cross-cultural experiences

by Kirsten McKeown

As part of the campus-wide celebration planned in honor of International Weekend, Bates College will be honored by a visit from Ved Mehta. The highly-acclaimed journalist, novelist, biographer, and intellectual will be speaking on Saturday, February 1st in Chase Lounge at 3 p.m. on the theme of "Living Across Cultures."

Certainly, Mehta's speech will draw on his own experiences as an inhabitant of three continents: experiences through which he has gained knowledge of and been influenced by many different cultural traditions.

Mehta's eventful life began on the Asian subcontinent of India, where he was born, and where, at the age of four, he lost his sight. He first came to the United States as a student at a school for the blind in Arkansas, and continued his education at Pomona College, Yale University, and finally, Oxford. Living in India, England, and America has given Mehta a trans-cultural perspective on life. Although he officially became a United States citizen in 1975, Mehta counts many different cultural traditions as his own. Currently, he is a writer for *The New Yorker* magazine, a publication to which he has contributed since 1969. He also continues to maintain the prestigious Rosenkranz Chair in Writing at Yale University.

Ankur Sarin, President of the International Club, expressed excitement about the prospect of a speaker at Bates who will be able to address some of the many complex issues that span across different cultures in an intellectual fashion. According to Sarin, Mehta "brings a broad-based view," which is appropriate for an international celebration. The speaker's personal experiences as a foreign student should also prove to be insightful for Saturday's audience.

It was in this fertile, brutal land, in the Punjab, up and down the rivers and along their canals, that the family tree of the Mehtas sent down its roots and spread...

In this passage from *Daddyji*, a biography of his father, Ved Mehta hints at the manner in which the history of his family and the history of his native country, India, are inextricably intertwined. Mehta is known and highly-regarded for his impressive descriptive powers as a writer, and partly because of this, his books have come to serve as excellent studies of middle class Indian life. *Daddyji*, along with a biography of his mother, Mamaji, explores the two opposing sides of Indian society his



Acclaimed writer Ved Mehta will be speaking on his experiences "Living Across Cultures" as part of International Weekend.

Fifi Shalom Foundation File Photo

parents represent. His mother represents the more traditional India, whereas his father, a physician, embodies a Western influence.

Aside from his biographical writings, Mehta is also a distinguished political writer. One of his

Mehta's speech will draw on his own experiences as an inhabitant of three continents; experiences through which he has gained knowledge of and been influenced by many different cultural traditions.

most famous books, *Mohatma Gandhi and His Apostles*, carefully examines the private and political life of Gandhi, one of India's great social and political icons. His latest book, *Walking the Indian Streets*, offers a highly-detailed account of the Mehta's return to his native country after a ten-year absence.

Lavina Shankar, Professor of English, assisted in bringing

Mehta to Bates. She called it "fortuitous" that he will be speaking "in a direct connection with the expanding curriculum [of post-colonial literature] at Bates."

Many of the themes that Mehta has undertaken in his work closely follow issues that Shankar explores in her classes, such as cultural and national identity, literature in the colonial and post-colonial eras, and educational experiences. "The dual existence of being both Western and non-Western ... straddling cultures" makes Mehta's point of view valuable, she stated.

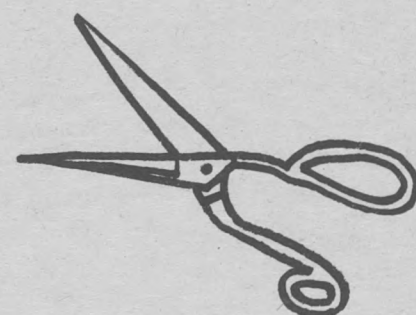
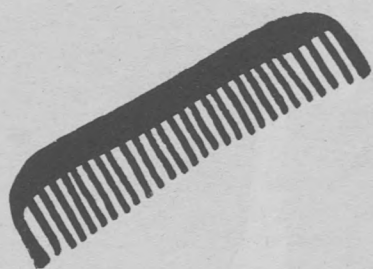
It deserves to be noted that Mehta's works have been translated into at least eleven different languages. The George and Helen Ladd Library is fortunate to count many of them among its holdings, including *Continents of Exile*, *The New India*, *Sound-Shadows of the New World*, *Fly and the Fly-Bottle: Encounters with British Intellectuals*, and many more.

Shankar, who has been conducting research on Mehta's life and works, will be speaking and introducing the writer at Saturday's lecture: an event which should provide Bates College with an exciting and powerful way to celebrate its first annual International Weekend.

Aaaaaaahhhhhh.....
Now isn't the Arts section refreshing?

It's sometime during the day
... or night.

Do you know where your
sheep are???



Well, if they're *smart*, they're
probably getting their wool
sheared at ALICE'S House 'o'
Hair, where, as Alice says, "even if
it sucks, it only costs two bucks."



"Behhhh."

-another satisfied customer



Alice Reagan is a non-certified, but highly-personable
hairstylist. Call 795-7351 for appointments.

The Bates Student reader survey

Students on *The Student*: Salute us. Slam us. So long as you respond. But if you don't vote, don't complain.

Please rate the following areas of coverage, their respective features, and even details of each section, when applicable. Also with each feature, please note how often you read it by filling in the appropriate number in the blank where applicable: (1) Always, (2) Often, (3) Seldom, (4) Never.

	Love it	Like it	Want it	Dump it	Frequency(#)
News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Front Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Graphics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
News Analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
The Inside Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Local Focus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Personal Narratives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Horoscope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Artwork	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Forum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Staff Editorial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Campus Perspectives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
International Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Domestic Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Graphics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Sean P. O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Around Campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
News in Brief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Investigative Reporting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Artwork	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Human Interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Arts Calendar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
State of Maine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Reviews/Previews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Film	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Performance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Feature Stories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
News Coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Player Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
NESCAC Roundup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Seventh Section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Question on the Quad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___
Questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	___

Please list the daily newspapers that you read more than once a week.

Please list the magazines that you read regularly.

Do you find the graphic presentation of the paper appealing? Please comment freely and make suggestions and attach paper if necessary. Are there features from past formats that you would like resurrected?

What do you think about the syndicated comic "Life in Hell"? Do you read it regularly?

What do you think about the comic "College Days"? Do you read it regularly?

Politically, how would you describe yourself:

Do you watch television news regularly?

Considering recent issues of the newspaper, do you think *The Student* has:

Improved significantly__ Improved slightly__
Stayed the Same__ Plummeted from lofty heights__

Considering the recent issues of the newspaper, do you think the writing in *The Student* has:

Improved significantly__ Improved slightly__
Stayed the same__ Plummeted from lofty heights__

What was the best story that you read in *The Student* in the last year?

Turn the page for more exciting questions!

Answer on the Quad

Halftime Edition

The Packers.

You think we
would run
Fifi Shalom's
picture twice
in the same
issue? Hah!
See page 18.



"Why is the green and yellow jello
sold out in the entire state of
Wisconsin? Why can't I find Kraft
Packer-oni and Cheese?"

Fifi Shalom '97

"Who Favre-in* rocks?"

-Karen Janke '97

"What is the Second Coming?"

-Annalee Gunlicks '97

"What is a waste of
community funding?"

-Anonymous
Patriots fan '86

Reported by Jeremy Root Photos by Amanda Hinnant

This blank space is brought to you by the
many writers who have yet to submit their
stories to *The Student*.

Write.

It's just that simple.